

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

+ + + + +

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

+ + + + +

OCS RENEWABLE ENERGY AND  
ALTERNATIVE USE PROGRAMMATIC EIS

+ + + + +

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 24, 2006

+ + + + +

The above entitled matter came on for Public Meeting pursuant to notice, at Melville Marriott, 1350 Old Walt Whitman Road, Melville, New York, on May 24, 2006, at 6:00 p.m.

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(6:00 p.m.)

MS. ORR: We're the agency that's responsible for managing the outer continental shelf of the United States, which is basically the area beyond three miles off of the coast of the country, if you look at this map. The mineral resources located -- mineral and energy resources located on the outer continental shelf.

On a day-to-day-basis, we currently manage over 8,500 leases. We have over 47 million acres currently under lease. Thirty percent of the oil and 21 percent of the natural gases produced in the United States come from lands that are managed by the Minerals Management Service. We have over 4,000 production platforms currently in operation. We oversee 33,000 miles of pipeline. There are over 42,000 people currently employed in activities associated with OCS. And a hundred and 25 operating companies that we work with.

And a lot of people don't know this, but over eight billion dollars from activities, mineral activities on the OCS go into the treasury every year.

This map is also, up here on the wall, this is just to give you an idea when I'm talking

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1 about the outer continental shelf and the area that  
2 we're going to be covering in this programmatic EIS,  
3 this is what we're talking about.

4 The Energy Policy Act of 2005, which was  
5 signed last August, gave MMS significant new  
6 responsibilities to oversee permitting of alternative  
7 energy, renewable energy projects on the outer  
8 continental shelf. It was signed in August. There  
9 are 23 different provisions that related to different  
10 parts of the OCS and management of those resources,  
11 including renewable energy and alternative use of  
12 existing facilities. And I'll talk about that in a  
13 minute.

14 This is what it did. It amended the outer  
15 continental shelf lands act, which is our guiding  
16 legislation under which we operate to authorize  
17 Department of Interior, subsequently the Minerals  
18 Management Service, to permit alternative and  
19 renewable  
20 energy projects on the outer continental shelf. The  
21 legislation told us that we needed to develop a  
22 regulatory regime that ensured consultations with  
23 states and other stakeholders. We need to grant  
24 leases, even to rights-of-way for the use of those  
25 resources. We need to come up with a regulatory

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1 compliance system and the way to enforce it; require  
2 financial security for those operators out there, and  
3 provide a fair return to the nation for the nation's  
4 resources, as resources beyond three miles belong to  
5 the nation as a whole.

6 What does it not do? It doesn't supercede  
7 or modify any existing federal authority. Any other  
8 legislation that's in place is still in place. It  
9 doesn't supercede any of those. It does not apply to  
10 areas designated as national sanctuaries, national  
11 parks, national wildlife refuge, or any national  
12 monument. We will not be permitting activities in  
13 those areas. And it does not include ocean thermal  
14 energy.

15 Some examples of OCS renewable energy,  
16 wind, wave, ocean current energy, technologies that  
17 are currently being developed, solar energy, hydrogen,  
18 any number of technologies that are on the drawing  
19 board now or that are being permitted as we speak.  
20 And Walt is going to make a presentation a little bit  
21 later, that will go into a little bit more detail  
22 about these technologies and give you a little bit  
23 more background on these.

24 Some examples of alternative use, in  
25 addition to renewable energy provisions that the

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1       legislation had, it also gave us the authority to  
2       permit alternative use of existing OCS facilities.  
3       So, for example, the platforms that we have in the  
4       Gulf of Mexico, we now have authority to permit other  
5       uses beyond just production of oil and gas for those.  
6       We need to create a regulatory regime for that, as  
7       well. To allow us to permit activities such as  
8       aquaculture, or a facility to be used for research or  
9       education, or off-shore operation support.

10               So, what are we doing? What do we need to  
11       do? We need to enter into a meaningful dialogue with  
12       our stakeholders to help us create this new regulatory  
13       process. And we need to, as MMS, focus on our  
14       regulator role. We are the regulator for these  
15       projects. We need to develop a regulatory compliance  
16       system, ensure fair market value and ensure  
17       environmental compliance. Using sound science  
18       engineering and environmental protection principles as  
19       we do this.

20               What are our main goals? We need to  
21       provide for multiple use management of these off-shore  
22       lands. To make sure that we can en -- that we  
23       identify and can manage all of the different uses.  
24       Protect the nation's economic and land use interests.  
25       Establish a predictable process, to facilitate private

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1 sector permitting and encourages public sector input.  
2 Provide the public and private sector with certainty  
3 and stability. We need to increase the balance of the  
4 nation's sources and supplies of energy; encourage new  
5 and innovative technologies to help meet our energy  
6 needs, and support the Energy Policy Act's initiative  
7 to simplify permitting for energy production in an  
8 environmentally safe manner.

9 These are foundations, foundation  
10 principles that we're following as we go through the  
11 development of this regulatory regime, and as we work  
12 through development of the programmatic EIS.

13 To date, we have published an advance  
14 notice of proposed rule-making that came out in  
15 December of last year. And in that, we requested  
16 comments on issues that included, how should we  
17 provide access to these OCS lands? How do we  
18 coordinate and consult with all of the interested  
19 parties? What environmental information and  
20 compliance information do we need to include in a  
21 regulatory system? Help us identify what the  
22 operational activities are that we need to make sure  
23 that we include -- encompass within that regulatory  
24 system. And how are we going to -- How should we  
25 determine payments and revenue? Help us design this

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1 regulatory system.

2 The public comment period closed on  
3 February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006. We received a number of  
4 comments, very substantive comments, good comments  
5 that we're working through now.

6 The development of the rule-making also is  
7 paralleled by the development of the programmatic EIS,  
8 which is what we're here to talk about tonight. We'll  
9 talk about more of the specific environmental and  
10 socioeconomic impacts that we need to make sure that  
11 we consider as we design the regulatory system and  
12 also, look at the environmental impacts associated  
13 with the national program. That's why an EIS is  
14 needed.

15 The National Environmental Policy Act says  
16 that we need to analyze how a proposed action, this is  
17 a national program, how this national program could  
18 impact the natural and human environment. The  
19 analysis NEIS has used to help the decision makers  
20 understand not only the decision makers, but also, the  
21 public, understand the issues and help us as we need  
22 to make the decisions about whether and where and when  
23 to allow access to these resources, and what are the  
24 advantages and disadvantages of those decisions. And  
25 the analysis is made available for citizens to review.

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1                   What's in an EIS? It's the reason we're  
2 here tonight. For you to help us identify these  
3 issues.

4                   The comprehensive analysis of the  
5 environmental and socioeconomic impact describes the  
6 purpose and need for the proposed program and in this  
7 instance, we're talking about this national program to  
8 develop the national regulatory system for permitting  
9 of these alternative energy projects. It identifies  
10 environmental impacts and mitigation. Analyzes the  
11 alternatives to a proposed action. And looks at the  
12 long and short-term impacts and the commitment of  
13 resources. What's it going to take for us to be able  
14 to do this? It describes how public concerns were  
15 treated in the analysis.

16                  What is scoping? Scoping is what we're  
17 doing here tonight. It's not only the meetings that  
18 we're going to have, it's the comments that will be  
19 submitted via our website, as what we would receive in  
20 the mail. It's to help us determine what needs to go  
21 into this EIS. What's the scope of the EIS?

22                  The types of comments that we're looking  
23 for? Tonight, we're looking for the comments on the  
24 program, the overall program, and the site-specific  
25 comments, and the scoping for the site-specific

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1 projects will come later. Issues of concern related  
2 to renewable energy development and alternative use of  
3 existing facilities. Input from industry regarding  
4 the potential areas of interest. Where are they  
5 interested? Where is the resource? Where do they see  
6 that it's economically viable? The types of  
7 technologies, the timing, when do they see these  
8 technologies coming on line and where?

9 Help us to identify mitigation measures  
10 and alternatives. Are there different ways of doing  
11 this that we should be considering, to make sure that  
12 we include it in our analysis. The environmental and  
13 predictive information that pertains to off-shore and  
14 coastal areas potentially affected by OSC development.

15 We need to know what environmental issues  
16 are out there, what are the species of concern, what  
17 are the activities of concern. Socioeconomic issues.  
18 We need to be aware of them and this is the  
19 opportunity for you to let us know what those concerns  
20 are, what those issues are, and what data is out  
21 there. This is our schedule. Currently, we're  
22 undertaking the scoping effort, in the first bullet up  
23 there. We'll run through July 5<sup>th</sup>. We will publish  
24 the draft environmental impact statement in February  
25 of 2007. And at the same time, we will publish the

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1 proposed rule, which is parallel -- they need to run  
2 together. The public hearings which we will hold will  
3 be in March and April of 2007, to talk about what was  
4 in the draft EIS. The comment period on the draft EIS  
5 will close in April 2007. A final EIS in August.  
6 Executive decision in September and a final rule will  
7 be in September 2007.

8 And as I said, we are taking comments at  
9 our website. We've got comment cards out at the  
10 tables, or the address is there and I think it was in  
11 the material that you were given when you came in.

12 Walt's going to -- to give you an overview  
13 of the technology that's out there. But before he  
14 gets started, I wanted to acknowledge that we have a  
15 representative from Senator Schumer's, who's not going  
16 to speak, but she's here representing him and we're  
17 very glad to have her here.

18  
19 (Pause.)

20 MR. MUSIAL: I think we've got it now.  
21 Good evening. My name is Walt Musial. I'm from the  
22 National Renewable Energy Laboratory. And I'm with  
23 the National Wind Technology Center, which is the  
24 national program that's been researching wind energy  
25 for almost 30 years now. I've been with the program

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1 about 18 years. And recently, probably, the last  
2 three years, spent most of my time developing and  
3 working on this new thing called off-shore wind. So,  
4 what I'm here to tell you tonight and talk to you  
5 about is the technical perspective on the subject of  
6 off-shore wind and other uses of the -- of the ocean.  
7 I'll apologize in advance for my only cursory  
8 knowledge of some of the other ocean systems. But  
9 we're going to go through all of them, because they're  
10 all important and they all could come up some time.

11 I'm going to focus, probably, three-  
12 quarters of my talk on off-shore wind energy. I'm  
13 going to talk a little bit about wave current, wave  
14 and current energy and then, hybrids, meaning a  
15 combination of the two and some advanced applications.

16 Starting with the resource, this is what  
17 we look at, this is what we think of as being the  
18 available energy that we can extract from a particular  
19 source of energy, much like a reserve oil well, if you  
20 will, except, this doesn't run out. These are --  
21 These are different types of sources that we are  
22 looking at for the ocean. First and foremost here is  
23 the off-shore wind, that's why a lot of you are here  
24 today. I know a lot of faces as a result of the  
25 activity that's been going on in this area. But

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1 there's wave energy, tidal energy and ocean current  
2 energy. And I compare all of those to the total  
3 generation capacity of the national grid. And you can  
4 see there's a lot of energy there to be made. And if  
5 I look at this in terms of the, you know, state by  
6 state, I think this looks even more impressive. So,  
7 when we start in and we have to make choices about  
8 energy, most people know we're at that point right  
9 now, where you have to start making diversification  
10 and choices, these are things we need to look at.

11 I put this slide up here, really, for  
12 background. This is really the penetration of wind on  
13 the -- worldwide, an accumulative growth curve showing  
14 that we have about 60,000 megawatts of wind worldwide  
15 right now. This is on shore, mostly. And I put this  
16 up here mainly for perspective. Eight hundred and  
17 four megawatts of off shore, less than two percent.  
18 So, off shore is a nascent industry, it's just  
19 starting right now, and there are some bumps in the  
20 road that we have to get through.

21 Europe is where all this energy is right  
22 now, all the off shore. This is a map of, you'll  
23 recognize, northern Europe, Denmark, Germany, UK.  
24 The projects that have gone in, there's 18 or 19 right  
25 now, 804 megawatts installed. Percentage-wise,

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1 Denmark dominates, followed by the United Kingdom. A  
2 very small slice to Germany. But if we look at what's  
3 going to happen in the next five to ten years, we're  
4 going to see a big growth there, because, primarily,  
5 Europe is running out of good land sites and they  
6 value what wind can do to contribute to their national  
7 electric grid.

8 Here in the United States we have a kind  
9 of a mixed situation, a situation that similar to  
10 Europe in some ways, but different, because we've got  
11 this vast on-shore resource. This map represents the  
12 wind resource on this side. This map represents the  
13 population of the country. And everybody could agree  
14 that most of the population is clustered along the  
15 coastlines. Not to say that there isn't land-based  
16 sites outside of these red areas. This represents 80  
17 percent of the wind class three or greater. There are  
18 sites all through here, but in terms of significance,  
19 most of the good wind sites are off shore when you  
20 come to these coastal states. And the matching for  
21 that load is significant.

22 This is a map that we made of projects  
23 that we know of, if your project's not on here, I  
24 apologize. There are some projects that are much  
25 further along than others. These are -- Some of these

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1 are in state waters and are not in the jurisdiction of  
2 Minerals Management. Some are further along than  
3 others. The ones in yellow, I've highlighted, because  
4 those permitting processes began before the Energy  
5 Policy Act, and they're in a different -- different  
6 phase of development. Some of these projects are in  
7 state waters and in particular, these big projects  
8 down in Texas. Texas state boundaries extend out 10.3  
9 miles from the coast and so, they're kind of doing  
10 their own thing.

11 I want to talk to you about wind -- wind  
12 technology, because I assumed when I came here that,  
13 there would be some people that really didn't know  
14 that much about wind technology. But I apologize to  
15 the people who I know, know as much as I do, sitting  
16 in this audience. But generally, I want to make sure  
17 everybody comes away with an understanding of what a  
18 wind turbine is and what -- why it looks like it does.  
19 And this is kind of a schematic of -- of a wind  
20 turbine. The wind comes in this way, so this is an  
21 up-wind machine, and it encounters the rotor, which  
22 converts the wind into a torque which goes through a  
23 gear box which speeds it up, brings the power, the  
24 torque, into a higher speed generator and electricity  
25 down the tower. Kind of simple.

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1           There's a yaw system that makes sure that  
2           the wind turbine is oriented toward the wind at all  
3           times. And when we cluster these together, we call  
4           them a wind farm or a wind power plant. The clustered  
5           aggregate of all these systems equals in many cases,  
6           the capacity of a conventional fossil-fuel type power  
7           plant. And that's what we want to get across here.

8           I debated whether I should show equations  
9           this late at night, and I -- the foolish side of me  
10          won here. But I think this is an important thing to  
11          get across here, and that's why I put it up here,  
12          because I want people to understand that the power in  
13          the wind is going to have a relationship with the wind  
14          speed, this VE term, that's cubic, which means a small  
15          change in wind speed is going to have a large change  
16          in power. So, the power in the wind equals one-half  
17          times the air density, times the rotor area, which is  
18          the swept area that the blades make, the diameter --  
19          it's the area of this circle that the rotor makes,  
20          times the velocity cubed. Okay?

21          And the first thing everybody wants to  
22          know when we design or build a wind turbine is, what's  
23          the power curve. The power curve is this, you measure  
24          power versus wind speed. And power advances with the  
25          cube of the wind speed to a point, and that point is

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1 called rated power. So, if you have like a 3.6  
2 megawatt wind turbine, 3.6 is what the level of that  
3 flat top there. And the reason that's flat is because  
4 the turbine starts to regulate its power, it feathers  
5 the blades and maintains that power, because the  
6 generator can't handle it. And at some point, it cuts  
7 out and that's called cut-out wind speed. So, this is  
8 advancing wind speed along here, and this is the power  
9 curve.

10 Now, just to illustrate this point one  
11 further. I went out and I looked for a wind site that  
12 was on land and I did this in Massachusetts. I took  
13 -- I found an airport called Hanscom Field in  
14 Massachusetts, about 30 miles inland. And they have  
15 an average wind speed of ten miles per hour. So, I  
16 plugged that into this equation. Then, I went out and  
17 found a site off shore, I won't say which one. But  
18 their average wind speed at the same elevation was 18  
19 and a half miles per hour. And if I compare those  
20 two, the off-shore site has six and a half times more  
21 power at the same average wind speed as the on-shore  
22 site. And as far as energy production is concerned,  
23 if I -- they both have the same power curve, but I put  
24 one turbine, same machine on the off-shore site, an  
25 identical machine on the on-shore site, the off-shore

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1 machine makes five times more energy. And these are  
2 real sites that I was looking at. And so, it would  
3 take five wind turbines on shore to do the same thing  
4 as an off-shore turbine, and that's an important point  
5 to this energy relationship there.

6 So, now, we have some examples of swept  
7 area, that's the area part of our equation. And you  
8 see that swept area is getting bigger on some of  
9 these. This is a wind farm called Horns Rev. These  
10 are some wind turbines that were put in Hull,  
11 Massachusetts. This is an old turbine that I used to  
12 work on out at Mt. Tom, Massachusetts. Machines now  
13 are actually getting designed at five megawatts, so  
14 they're getting bigger. The reason they're getting  
15 bigger is because maintenance costs go down with  
16 turbine size. Installation costs go down with turbine  
17 size. The grid infrastructure goes down with turbine  
18 size. Foundation costs go down with turbine size.  
19 And the amount of energy you can generate per  
20 submerged land area goes up with turbine size. So,  
21 there's a lot of reasons to go to bigger turbines, and  
22 we're doing that.

23 This is -- Now, I just have some pictures.  
24 This is a 3.6 megawatt G.E. turbine operating in Arclo  
25 Banks. There's the rotor, a hundred and four meters

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1 across. Hit the button, you can see my jumbo jet.  
2 That gives you an idea of the scale. That's a Boeing  
3 747 super imposed on the rotor, so you can see how big  
4 that is.

5 One of the first things that has to happen  
6 during the development phase of any off-shore wind  
7 farm, or any on-shore wind farm for that matter is,  
8 monitoring the site, to make sure you have good wind.  
9 I've already just explained why wind is important. A  
10 small difference in the wind speed makes a huge  
11 difference in how much power or energy you can get.  
12 So, you have to know what that is pretty accurately.

13 So, the first thing a developer's going to  
14 do is, go out and put an anemometer tower up. This is  
15 an example of a Cape Wind -- of Cape Wind's anemometer  
16 tower. This is one in Europe that was put up for  
17 Horns Rev. And in addition to measuring wind speeds,  
18 which you see anemometers at different levels along  
19 the tops of these towers, we're going to be looking at  
20 waves off shore, and waves are important, because the  
21 wind/wave combination is important to the design  
22 conditions that the engineers have to use to design  
23 the machines. So, you can see, it's not -- it's not  
24 hard to imagine why a sheltered site might be a  
25 desirable thing, when it comes to waves, because waves

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1 are -- waves would increase at a slower speed in a  
2 shelter site -- sheltered site with respect to wind  
3 speed. And it's also important to understand what the  
4 extremes are. And I know Minerals Management is going  
5 to be very involved in understanding and helping to  
6 decide that.

7 As an example, here's a typical wind farm  
8 in Europe. This is a hundred and 60 megawatt Horns  
9 Rev. It's on the west coast of Denmark. There are 80  
10 turbines, each of them two megawatts -- two megawatt  
11 capacity, 80 meters in diameter. The total output of  
12 this wind farm is 600 gigawatt hours. No one probably  
13 understands that number. I'll put it into -- My  
14 conversion is 60,000 U.S. households that that can  
15 serve, and probably, a hundred thousand Danish  
16 households. They use less energy than we do. Some  
17 other statistics. Fourteen kilometers from shore. I  
18 don't know where this picture was taken from, so I  
19 can't answer the visual question. But generally, it's  
20 -- the turbines are put into an array. The spacing's  
21 probably about a quarter to a half mile between the  
22 turbines. So, they're not real close together. They  
23 can't be, because they'll steal each others wind and  
24 they won't work.

25 Whenever you put a turbine in, and this is

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1 one of the complications of off-shore versus on-shore.  
2 We have to put in a foundation and the foundations  
3 become more sophisticated, more difficult off shore,  
4 because we can't just dig a hole and pour concrete in  
5 it. We have -- A monopile is a 20 foot diameter pipe  
6 that's pounded about 80 feet into the -- into the  
7 seabed and that's the type of foundation that was in  
8 the Horns Rev project that I just showed in the  
9 previous slide.

10 A couple other wind farms that exist in  
11 Europe use gravity-based foundations, which is exactly  
12 what it sounds like. It's just a big heavy piece of  
13 concrete that is placed on a level seabed and it's  
14 heavy enough to keep the turbine from tipping over.  
15 It's another option. It works. They both work. A  
16 new type of foundation which may be employed in the  
17 future, designed especially, maybe, in the Gulf of  
18 Mexico, or if we get into deeper waters is the tripod  
19 or truss-type foundations. And this has a wider wheel  
20 base on the -- on the bottom which allows -- makes it  
21 stiffer, makes it work better in soft soils. Those  
22 are some examples.

23 This is the monopile. Here you see, a  
24 monopile that's been pounded in before the turbine was  
25 placed on top of it, out at Arclo Banks, and there's

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1 the final machine. There's another one getting  
2 installed out there. Gravity-based foundations, these  
3 are barged in from Poland in this case. This is the  
4 Samso Wind Farm in -- also in Denmark. You see this  
5 -- this cone here is, it's there for icing. The  
6 Baltic has about one-third of the salinity as the  
7 Atlantic and it ices over. So that when the ice flow  
8 hits that, it kinds of curls the ice underneath and  
9 prevents the machine from suffering negative impacts  
10 from that.

11 Electrical grid is just, probably, an  
12 obvious thing, but these things are arranged in like  
13 a rectangular array. I think those -- We're going to  
14 -- There's evidence that this may not be the most  
15 efficient way to arrange wind turbines. But there's  
16 cables in between all these machines. An electric  
17 substation which brings in a cable-to-shore, all  
18 buried underground or underwater, that is. There's a  
19 cable-laying ship.

20 We have unique waves off shore. Access  
21 becomes a more difficult issue. You can see some  
22 different examples of that. You may have heard --  
23 I've had a few people talk to me of floating systems.  
24 There are no floating hardware designs in the United  
25 -- anywhere in the world right now. A lot of people

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1 are interested in this. It's a curiosity for a lot of  
2 researchers. It's a real potential for future wind  
3 turbine development. But currently, there are no  
4 commercial projects. Norway is actually working on  
5 one design right now, that they claim they will put in  
6 place, but it is unlikely that we're going to see  
7 floating systems in the very near future. But long-  
8 term, yes, because deep water has a lot of potential.

9 Now, we're going to switch gears and get  
10 into ocean current, ocean wave and titled systems.  
11 This technology lags wind power, both in the funding  
12 that it's received and the science that's behind it.  
13 It's -- Most of the stuff that's going on right now  
14 are device -- devices, prototypes that are looking for  
15 places to actually get into the ocean and test them.  
16 It's mostly led by the Europeans, because U.K. and  
17 Ireland and places like that have a lot of ocean  
18 resource, and they don't want to ignore the resource  
19 that they have. They need -- As I said, they need a  
20 test site for doing the technology. And I'll talk  
21 more about that in a minute.

22 I just have a -- This is kind of a collage  
23 of different examples of point absorbers. And a point  
24 absorber is -- They call it that, because it's a buoy,  
25 so it acts like a point in the -- in the middle of the

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1 wave. But it can generate and influence the water  
2 around it. So, as a wave comes through, it rises and  
3 falls, and through a mechanism that it has on board,  
4 it turns a generator which generates electricity. And  
5 clustered together, those point absorbers can form a  
6 power plant. Each of these systems is anchored to the  
7 sea bottom in some way, or through a fixed bottom type  
8 system. So, they'll have similar needs as a floating  
9 type wind turbine.

10 This is a short movie clip of a device  
11 called Pelamis. This is actually built and this is  
12 done by the Scottish. You see as it rides through the  
13 waves like a snake, the joints create the power by  
14 flexing. There's a mechanism in there that creates --  
15 that generates electricity at each of these joints.

16 Now, I'm talking about ocean, tidal.  
17 These are devices that look a lot like wind turbines  
18 in a lot of cases, but they run under water in  
19 currents. As I said, this technology may have nitch  
20 marketplaces in places where there are currents, but  
21 unfortunately, there isn't a lot of wide spread broad  
22 resource for this type of technology in -- at least in  
23 federal waters. However, you see there's some -- a  
24 lot of people trying these devices out in different  
25 places. In fact, this one here, I believe is being --

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1 scheduled to be tried out in the East River here in  
2 New York.

3 One thing we might see before or during or  
4 in parallel with a commercial development are test  
5 sites. And we need test sites for advance the  
6 technology from where it is right now. Most of the  
7 wind energy systems that are out there right now are  
8 -- have evolved slowly from land-based systems. But  
9 to really make leaps of technology, we need ocean  
10 sites. We can only go so far testing our off-shore  
11 turbines on land. We need ocean test sites where we  
12 can do this. That involves -- This is a site in  
13 Scotland that they actually have commissioned already.  
14 The U.S. needs something, so that we can experience  
15 our worst nightmare turbine situation here, which is  
16 the picture that we do to characterize all the bad  
17 things that can happen to a wind turbine that's placed  
18 in the ocean. And we also need it for regulatory  
19 compliance and to demonstrate that we have it.

20 Some of the more advanced concepts.  
21 Hydrogen is one of them. Hydrogen is, obviously, not  
22 an energy source, but you can use ocean energy  
23 devices, there's plenty of water, you can use energy  
24 sources from the ocean to generate hydrogen and then,  
25 that diversifies what you can do with an off-shore

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1 electric system. Wind turbines of the electric grid  
2 kind of go together, but there's very little crossover  
3 between wind turbines or any electric generating  
4 source and the transportation sector, for instance.  
5 If you can make hydrogen, you can address the home  
6 heating markets and you can address the transportation  
7 sectors by making a fuel.

8 And finally, we have an option to combine  
9 devices. Off-shore wind and wave devices could have  
10 synergies that go beyond their own individual  
11 potential. In other words, wind turbines don't really  
12 like waves. If a wave generator were placed near a  
13 wind turbine, it would reduce the wave loading on the  
14 system and they would -- their combined power  
15 generation would make better use of the grid system  
16 that you could put in and make -- perhaps, make a more  
17 cost effective system. Of course, this requires the  
18 commercialization of both the wind and the -- the  
19 other technologies separately, before we can start  
20 thinking about combining them.

21 So, in summary, we do have near term  
22 projects, as most of you know, that pertain to shallow  
23 sheltered sites and the technology is there right now  
24 for wind turbines to go forward in the ocean, today,  
25 as they have in Europe. New technologies are going to

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1 be needed for deeper waters and probably, to lower the  
2 cost of the current systems. Ocean and wave  
3 technologies are really in the first prototype testing  
4 stage right now, and they need a lot more development  
5 before they can go commercial. And hydrogen  
6 production is a long-term option. I think we have to  
7 get the wind generators working and certainly, they go  
8 hand in hand.

9 Thank you.

10  
11 (Pause.)

12 MR. GASPER: Okay. Now, it's my turn in  
13 the program. Actually, it's your turn in the program.  
14 This is the part where you get to get up and offer  
15 comments on what you think the scope of the  
16 environmental impact statement, programmatic  
17 environmental impact statement should be, what should  
18 be incorporated in the analysis, what we should be  
19 looking at. But before we get into that, I would like  
20 to make another -- another plea, I guess, to promote  
21 public involvement in the EIS process.

22 We're conducting this program at EIS,  
23 there are going to be several opportunities for the  
24 public to get involved. We're starting it off right  
25 now with the scoping meetings. This is the third one

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1 that we've had on the east coast. We're conducting  
2 scoping meetings around the country. There's a couple  
3 going on, on the west coast this week, too. And the  
4 scoping process started on May 5<sup>th</sup>. It will run  
5 through July 5<sup>th</sup>.

6 During that scoping process, there'll be  
7 several different ways to -- to give input. The first  
8 is going to be coming to scoping meetings, making an  
9 oral comment. Another way is to make written  
10 comments, either using the scoping form that is  
11 available at the table, the registration table, or to  
12 go to the website and make comments via the website.

13 The next opportunity for public input is  
14 going to be after the draft EIS is produced. There'll  
15 be a public comment period then. And we'll be making  
16 the rounds again, soliciting comments from you about  
17 what you think of the draft EIS, what sort of  
18 improvements that might need to be made in it.

19 As I already mentioned, there's three ways  
20 to provide comments, via the website, via regular  
21 mail, or in person at the scoping meetings.

22 In terms of commenting tonight, you can  
23 either submit written comments, dropping off at the  
24 registration table, or to any one of us that have name  
25 tags, and you can -- If you have additional materials

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1 you might want to submit in addition to your comments,  
2 studies or other information, please feel free to  
3 give those to us, too. We appreciate getting that  
4 kind of information, because we can give it to the  
5 people, the analysts who are going to be preparing the  
6 EIS, and they really like getting as much information  
7 as they can before they begin that analysis.

8 In terms of making oral comments tonight,  
9 I think you had the opportunity to sign up to make a  
10 comment at the registration table. We've got about 24  
11 people who do want to make comments, and we'll call  
12 you up individually to make your comment. If anyone  
13 else decides they'd like to make a comment, there'll  
14 be an opportunity for you to do that at the end of the  
15 -- the period when people who have already registered  
16 to make comments, make theirs.

17 We'll take speakers in order that they  
18 signed up. And we're recording all the comments  
19 tonight. We have a court reporter, and we want to  
20 make sure we get all the details that are -- that are  
21 offered. We'll be getting transcripts of those and  
22 putting them on the website, so you can view those in  
23 the future.

24 As far as making your oral comment  
25 tonight, we ask that you come up to the podium, state

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1 your name, and if you're representing an organization,  
2 let us know what that is. We're asking that you limit  
3 your comments to three minutes to start out with. And  
4 also, focus -- The point of this meeting is to get  
5 information from you on the scope of the programmatic  
6 EIS. So, we're asking that you limit your comments  
7 tonight to that topic. And if you have any materials,  
8 supplemental materials to leave, please do that at  
9 that point in time.

10 So, having said all of that, it's time to  
11 start the -- Oh, one more -- one more thing. I've got  
12 a stop watch up here, set for three minutes. It's got  
13 an alarm that goes off about three minutes. I'm sure  
14 you'll hear that. After that happens, if you're still  
15 talking, I'll be holding up a yellow card, just to  
16 remind you. And if you continue talking, I'm going to  
17 hold up a red card. So, please try to limit your  
18 comments to three minutes. And we'll get started.

19 So, the first speaker on the list tonight  
20 is Robert Carra.

21 MR. CARRA: It will be more than three  
22 minutes. I'll work to editorialize as we go along and  
23 in the spirit of full disclosure, I wish to state for  
24 the record that, although I'm one of the co-chairs of  
25 Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc Committee --

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1 MR. GASPER: Excuse me, Robert. Is this  
2 one?

3 MR. CARRA: Yeah. I think it is. One of  
4 the co-chairs of the Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc  
5 Committee, I speak here tonight as a private citizen.  
6 My name is Robert Carra and I reside at 17 Broadway,  
7 Gilgo Beach, New York. I appreciate this opportunity  
8 to address the wisdom of the opinions, and to ask hard  
9 questions regarding the appropriateness of off-shore  
10 wind turbines in high traffic and densely populated  
11 areas.

12 I applaud the Department of the Interior's  
13 Mineral Management Service for implementing --  
14 implementation of this PEIS and request that fast  
15 track be abandoned now and not be revisited until the  
16 programmatic EIS and promulgation of the rules,  
17 regulations and guidelines and standards have been  
18 set. A complete and full disclosure must be  
19 undertaken, with an understanding of the ramifications  
20 to diversification of energy portfolios, corporate  
21 interests and public good.

22 My concern tonight was to include -- was  
23 to include but not be limited to cost benefits,  
24 aesthetics, environments and safety pursuant to the  
25 National Environmental Policy Act guidelines. Though,

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1        tonight, I will focus on risk assessment and potential  
2        degradation of military and civilian radar navigation  
3        systems in proximity of wind turbines. I was going to  
4        go in and indicate how close some of these places  
5        might be. But since we can't talk specifics, really,  
6        we'll pass on.

7                Following our edited excerpts from Cape  
8        Code Times, April 20<sup>th</sup>, studies conducted by the  
9        British Military last year found that turbine blades  
10       can produce "holes in detection in air defense," in  
11       air defense radar systems, at times, causing aircrafts  
12       to become obscured from view. A March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was  
13       conducted where U.S. leaders were briefed by a  
14       representative from the United Kingdom Ministry of  
15       Defense about effects of wind turbines on radar there.  
16       Among the participants during the meeting were the  
17       F.A.A., various military branches and Department of  
18       the Interior.

19                To cut to the chase, really, I can quote  
20       a number of concerns from a number of agencies  
21       regarding the problems that occur with -- with  
22       turbines and radar, and considering ocean and dense  
23       populations with flight patterns and rescue systems.  
24       The Coast Guard sent a letter to the Army Corps of  
25       Engineers, dated August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005. U.S. Coast Guard

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1 requested from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to  
2 require the applicant to complete a navigational risk  
3 assessment, whether an EA or an EIS is conducted,  
4 regardless. The assessment should address, namely,  
5 the potential impact on navigational safety, search  
6 and rescue operations and communication radar and  
7 positioning systems.

8 In conclusion, really, our vast nat -- our  
9 nation's vast coastline and its immense military  
10 civilian infrastructure requires conducting a full  
11 navigational risk assessment. The New York, as an  
12 example, metropolitan region calls for the most  
13 stringent, and from Gilgo Beach, I can see the Empire  
14 State Building. Okay?

15 So, 9/11, here we are, possibly. A most  
16 stringent scientific scrutiny with the findings as a  
17 model for the remainder of the nation. This is not  
18 the time and place for a fast track rationale.  
19 Though, thoughts along these lines should be  
20 considered hedging on criminality or insanity. What  
21 we really must do is apply strict scientific logic for  
22 this proposal, people. And it's our children, our  
23 grandchildren that need to be able to see the light of  
24 day. And pseudo-green technology, a diversified  
25 portfolio, without a master plan is not where we

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1       should be at. We need to look at the master plan.  
2       Thank you.

3                   MR. GASPER: Thank you. The next speaker  
4       is Charles Hergh.

5                   MR. HERGH: Hi. I'm Charles Hergh and I'm  
6       a retired electronics engineer.

7                   You know, I think the problem you're  
8       trying to solve is fuel shortages and global warming.  
9       If that's the case, renewables are not the best way to  
10      go. Nuclear energy is the better way to go. It's far  
11      more effective. It's used far more in other  
12      countries. The United States already has 20 percent  
13      nuclear energy. France, 76 percent. Lithuania, I  
14      think, is the winner with 82 percent. Japan, 35  
15      percent. So, that's probably the better one.

16                  All the other renewables have problems.  
17      As Walt said, the wind, the wind speed, the amount of  
18      power you get is proportionate to the cubit of wind  
19      speed. Well, guess what, the wind isn't steady, it's  
20      not constant. And even a 20 percent drop in wind  
21      speed halves the power. If the wind speed is half,  
22      you get one-eighth the power. So, that a hundred and  
23      40 megawatt proposed Long Island wind farm, on  
24      average, will produce 28 to 35 megawatts. So, in  
25      technical terms, it's a piece of junk. Okay?

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1           And so, there are other things that you  
2           could do, like repowering the electrical system that  
3           Keyspan has. Many of their power plants are just  
4           steam turbines. And by combining the steam turbine  
5           with a gas turbine, you could up the efficiency from  
6           35 percent to 60 percent. That could increase the  
7           power output by 70 percent. I think, also, since  
8           you've learned about global warming, you have to also  
9           think about gas hydrates. These are found in cold  
10          seats world wide. They're in the Gulf. And they're  
11          an opportunity and a problem.

12                 The opportunity is, of course, it's a good  
13          source of natural gas. The problem is that, they're  
14          unstable compounds of methane and water. And if the  
15          oceans heat up, or whatever they are, they're held  
16          together by the cold temperature and the pressure. If  
17          those things changed, that natural gas would shoot up  
18          into our atmosphere, to 20 times more powerful  
19          greenhouse gas, it could be a disaster.

20                 So, I wanted you people -- individuals to  
21          favor exploration of these gas hydrates, because it  
22          just makes more sense, you know. It's a threat while  
23          they're there. We should try and control our  
24          atmosphere, control our chemicals for other reasons,  
25          but maybe, give the oil companies a fast track for

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1 these hydrates. I'm not talking about going into the  
2 ground, obviously, that's not it. But these hydrates  
3 are on the bottom of the ocean. If it warms up,  
4 that's a problem. So, you should do that. You should  
5 consider re-columning your grid, you know, Keyspan  
6 generating equipment, all of this would be very  
7 helpful. You know -- Oh, yeah.

8 If you burn natural gas, it's better than  
9 oil. You'd get one-third -- You'd cut down carbon  
10 dioxide emissions by one-third. So, I guess if you  
11 have a power plant and you switch from oil to natural  
12 gas and you repower it, you could actually use 40  
13 percent less fuel, and produce 60 percent less carbon  
14 dioxide. Okay? And so, you really ought to --

15 MR. GASPER: Thank you. The next speaker,  
16 John Brooks, from the Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc  
17 Committee.

18 MR. BROOKS: Good evening. I want to  
19 thank the Department of Interior and the Minerals  
20 Management Service for the opportunity to address you  
21 in regard to your quest for a programmatic  
22 environmental impact study for America's outer  
23 continental shelf.

24 The responsibility you have to determine  
25 how we use and manage our coastal resources in

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1 perpetuity, rational, unbiased and non-political  
2 decisions based upon the best established scientific  
3 research available should be your goal. No industry  
4 or corporation should be allowed to put their toes  
5 into our coastal waters without obeying established  
6 rules, regulations and building guidelines that apply  
7 to everybody. No one should get a free pass and be  
8 granted fast track status on your watch.

9           The projects you are talking about can  
10 affect and impact the designated significant fish and  
11 wildlife habitats in the region. A number of bird,  
12 marine mammals, sea turtles and other species habitat  
13 within all of your project areas. Some of these are  
14 categorized as threatened or endangered pursuant to  
15 both federal and state species protection laws.

16           The Army Corps of Engineers recently  
17 commented on the LIPA Project, indicating that their  
18 preliminary determination is that the proposed site  
19 for which authorization is sought herein, may affect  
20 some endangered species, including four species of  
21 turtles, four species of whales, plating plovers, and  
22 rosiette terns. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife commented  
23 on the same project, adding avoid placing turbines in  
24 documented locations of any species of wildlife, fish,  
25 bird, or plants, protected under the federally

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1       Endangered Species Act. We have six species here.

2               The Nature Conservancy also commented,  
3       Long Island Atlantic coastal waters are important and  
4       should not be compromised. Critical spawning,  
5       feeding, nursery and migratory habitats for finfish,  
6       shellfish, shore birds, water fowl, sea mammals and  
7       sea turtles are in these waters.

8               The National Marine Fishery Service has  
9       indicated that essential fish habitats have been  
10      designated throughout the aquatic portions of the  
11      defined project area for various life stages of  
12      approximately three dozen federally managed fishery  
13      resources. Collectively, these organisms rely on  
14      appropriate habitat conditions to complete proportions  
15      of their life cycle. Construction activities and  
16      operation of industrial activities can disrupt and  
17      otherwise limit the success of habitat occupation by  
18      limiting aquatic resources.

19              The central theme of their comment points  
20      out a vital need for further in-depth analysis of the  
21      attendant project's impact and consequences.  
22      Generally, there is a lack of rigorous information on  
23      environmental impact analysis across many important  
24      components of the project.

25              Releasing and permitting of any industrial

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1 project on the outer continental shelf must be beyond  
2 reproach. Our heritage, recreational sanctuaries, and  
3 legacy for our children must not be determined by  
4 which group has the most money for lawyers and  
5 lobbyists. Any decisions you make must be honest and  
6 visionary and based on what is best for all Americans,  
7 not just a few. Thank you.

8 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
9 Gordian Raacke, Renewable Energy Long Island.

10 MR. RAACKE: Thank you. I have comments  
11 that would take much more than three minutes to read  
12 into the record, but I have them with me in written  
13 form, so I'll submit that for the record.

14 My name is Gordian Raacke, with Renewable  
15 Energy Long Island. I'm the executive director. We  
16 are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization educating  
17 the public on renewable energy and advocating for the  
18 use of clean, renewable energy sources. RELI strongly  
19 supports responsible development of renewable energy  
20 sources on the outer continental shelf. However, we  
21 can only support such development if it is done in an  
22 environmentally acceptable and sustainable manner,  
23 protecting our valuable marine life and coastal and  
24 ocean ecosystems, minimizing impacts on local and  
25 migratory bird populations and avoiding unnecessary

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1 visual and noise impacts.

2 During my mental and regulatory review  
3 processes of the proposed projects, we must assess the  
4 potential negative impacts and weigh them against  
5 significant positive environmental impacts and public  
6 benefits that renewable energy projects typically  
7 provide when compared to conventional power  
8 technologies.

9 RELI believes that in order to meet a  
10 substantial portion of our energy demands, we must  
11 promote and accelerate the development of large-scale  
12 renewable energy projects that are commercially viable  
13 today. We must be mindful of the fact that renewable  
14 energy generation facilities must be located near or  
15 adjacent to our country's load centers as we saw on  
16 that map earlier, which are here in our coastal areas.  
17 And we must overcome, we must overcome parochial not  
18 in my back yard attitudes, in favor of public policies  
19 and projects that provide for the broader public  
20 interest.

21 Off-shore wind turbines, as well as other  
22 off-shore renewable energy technologies have a  
23 significant and growing potential to provide us with  
24 clean and renewable, domestic energy sources, thus,  
25 offering important tools to reduce air pollution and

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1 greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global warming  
2 and climate change. We must recognize that off-shore  
3 renewable energy development is qualitatively very  
4 different from off-shore oil and natural gas  
5 development, which is what you deal with mostly.

6 First, harvesting a renewable energy  
7 source is non-extractive and does not deplete the  
8 resource. And secondly, environmental impacts from  
9 renewable energy projects are orders of magnitude  
10 lower in impact than oil and gas extraction and  
11 related activities. Therefore, we should strive to  
12 foster renewable energy development and ensure that  
13 regulatory review permitting and lease payments are  
14 designed to take these fundamental differences into  
15 account.

16 MMS should develop an appropriate  
17 framework and design its PEIS in accordance with  
18 existing federal laws, to ensure that the appropriate  
19 and timely development of off-shore renewable energy  
20 projects can move forward, while protecting our  
21 environment.

22 While developing the initial PEIS, MMS  
23 should not delay the review of projects that have  
24 already submitted formal permit applications, namely,  
25 the off-shore project here on Long Island and the Cape

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1 Wind project. Rather, MMS should use the rigorous  
2 environmental review process of these projects to  
3 gather valuable real world experience.

4 And now, I'm going to have to skip to,  
5 very quickly, to some specific scoping issues I wanted  
6 to bring up. And I guess the red card is up, so I'll  
7 have to hand it in, in my written remarks. Thank you  
8 very much.

9 MR. GASPER: I appreciate that. Thank  
10 you.

11 Next speaker, Frederick Goss -- Excuse me.  
12 Frederick Goss Carrier, from Bald Eagle Power.

13 MR. CARRIER: Good evening. My message is  
14 very simple. My company, Bald Eagle Power, is a  
15 parent company of a 501(c)(3) charity and our mission  
16 out here in making any kind of project out on the  
17 water to generate energy is based on the principle of  
18 we the people, not just an individual company to make  
19 money or anything else. We're working together with  
20 the U.S. government, sharing information, sharing  
21 techniques, sharing everything. And our program will  
22 eventually share 50/50 with the government, whatever  
23 income comes from there of all that we do.

24 And the program that we have in mind is to  
25 eliminate oil use in America within 46 months, and we

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1 can do this off shore. We cannot do it on shore.  
2 With a combination of energies that are out there.  
3 The number one energy out there is the water. The  
4 water is made up of hydrogen and oxygen. The next  
5 energy there is electricity, can be made from waves,  
6 currents, winds, solar, underwater currents and  
7 nuclear. With all of these three -- four elements  
8 together, we can generate enough electricity out there  
9 right off the outer continental shelf to supply the  
10 whole eastern seaboard with enough natural gas put  
11 together with hydrogen, to stop the oil in the whole  
12 eastern seaboard, eventually in the United States,  
13 because this is a possibility.

14 Because the concept is, we have now a  
15 distribution system of natural gas all the way through  
16 the pipelines covering our nation. The idea is to use  
17 that natural gas that we have right now, convert it  
18 over to fuel cells in the home and get the natural  
19 gas. And why we're going through the EIS here is to  
20 use the off shore to get the hydrogen to eventually  
21 mix with the natural gas, so that we have a 85 percent  
22 hydrogen and a ten percent of natural gas, which will  
23 work through the pipelines without embrittlement.

24 Now, this system can be done and the what  
25 the people need to do is get the whole United States

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1 behind it, like we did in World War II. And I say 46  
2 months, because that's exactly how long it took for  
3 America to win World War II, from December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941  
4 to September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945, was exactly 46 months. And  
5 when America entered that war, we had nothing but  
6 cardboard cannons and rubber tanks. Well, America got  
7 together and we did it. And we can do that here. And  
8 this will end oil use in America permanently, within  
9 a 46 month period, if -- if we get together and do it.

10 I know that the Mineral Management Service  
11 will work out all the problems with EIS out there, so  
12 that we can work positively. Thank you.

13 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
14 Maureen Dolan from the Citizens Campaign for the  
15 Environment.

16 MS. DOLAN: Good evening. I'm Maureen  
17 Dolan, Citizens Campaign for the Environment.  
18 Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000  
19 member, not-for-profit, non-partisan, advocacy  
20 organization working to protect public health and the  
21 natural environment in New York State and Connecticut.  
22 We work to build citizen understanding and advocacy  
23 for policies and actions designed to manage and  
24 protect plants, water resources, wildlife and public  
25 health.

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1           We're very active in promoting policies  
2           and actions at the local, state and federal levels  
3           that support the development and use of renewable  
4           energy, which is derived from sources that are not  
5           depleted when used at sustainable levels. Today, we  
6           face dwindling supplies of traditional energy sources,  
7           substantial increases in oil and gas prices, and  
8           significant pollutants that have an adverse impact on  
9           human health and the environment. America must look  
10          towards alternative energy sources to meet our rising  
11          energy demands.

12                 We believe the development of all off-  
13          shore renewable energy, including but not limited to  
14          off-shore wind technology, wave technology and  
15          underwater current technology, can be an important  
16          energy source for America. However, the development  
17          of these energies must undergo a site specific,  
18          rigorous environmental review process. The process  
19          must be comprehensive and include public  
20          participation. CCE offers the following specific  
21          comments which need to be addressed by an  
22          environmental impact statement for off-shore energy  
23          alternatives.

24                 One, the review must address how or if the  
25          proposed off-shore renewable energy project will

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1 impact displaced wave activity, including size, force  
2 and frequency of the activity.

3 Two, studies should be done to  
4 characterize the bottom lands of the intended location  
5 of a proposed project. In specific, the productivity  
6 of these bottom lands as they relate to commercial and  
7 recreational fish and shellfish harvesting, as well as  
8 providing habitat for marine life. EIS should look at  
9 a short-term and long-term effect.

10 Three, the effects of increased or  
11 decreased sand deposition caused by energy  
12 infrastructure. Sand deposition is critical to Long  
13 Island's very beaches and as well as so many other  
14 coastal areas.

15 Four, any possible reef effect that might  
16 occur around the infrastructure. The study should  
17 include both the pros and the cons of an artificial  
18 reef system as it relates to the specific species and  
19 to the local economy.

20 Five, the substantive bird migration  
21 pathway surrounding the proposed location of any  
22 project. Bird surveys should be conducted for each  
23 project. The EIS should evaluate both positive and  
24 negative effects that the renewable infrastructure  
25 might have on the bird population. These effects

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1 should be compared to the impact on birds caused by  
2 emissions from fossil fuel generating facilities of  
3 equal energy capacity on land.

4 Six, an assessment of the environmental  
5 and public health benefits as compared with the fossil  
6 fuel plan of equal generating capacity. This  
7 assessment should include any positive effects on air  
8 quality and any displacement of fossil fuel  
9 production. This should also include an assessment of  
10 whether the proposed location meets the federal air  
11 quality standards for ozone and fine particulate  
12 matter and how the renewable energy might affect  
13 compliance to these mandatory federal health  
14 standards.

15 Seven, an assessment of any potential  
16 impact to horseshoe crabs of the Atlantic coast. The  
17 horseshoe crab habitat ranges from Maine to the Gulf  
18 of Mexico, and most of them from Virginia to New  
19 Jersey. Adults spend fall and winter at the bottom of  
20 these or on the continental shelf.

21 Eight, an assessment of the migration  
22 patterns for marine mammals, including but not limited  
23 to whales, dolphins, seals and sea turtles.

24 Nine, the EIS should assess whether the  
25 project helps to meet state, regional and national

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1 regulations, codes or laws. This should include any  
2 state renewable portfolio standard, any executive  
3 order, or participation in regional initiatives, such  
4 as, IGSI, local government for sustainability, or  
5 REGI, regional greenhouse gas initiative.

6 Ten, the EIS should address any positive  
7 or negative effect the proposed project would have on  
8 the economy. This should include tourism, commercial  
9 and recreational fishing and beach activities, and any  
10 -- And EIS should include ample public opportunities  
11 in the form of informational meetings, public hearings  
12 and public commentaries. Thank you.

13 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Oh, great. Thank  
14 you.

15 Okay. Next speaker is Patrick McGloin  
16 (ph.), Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club.

17 Okay. Thank you.

18 Next speaker, Ernest M. Fazio, Long Island  
19 MBA.

20 MR. FAZIO: Good evening. I'm Ernie Fazio  
21 and I'm the chairman of the Long Island Mid-Suffolk  
22 Business Action.

23 We're an organization that advocates the  
24 building of infrastructure that will decrease  
25 pollution and increase efficiencies. And in this

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1 case, it's -- the issue is reducing pollution because  
2 of the generation of electric power. So, while I'm  
3 not expert enough to tell you that this is a good  
4 project, or a bad project, we -- I can be reasonably  
5 assured that it's not going to be producing any air  
6 pollution.

7 As far as the marine life is concerned,  
8 there seems to be some people who think that this  
9 might have an impact on the marine life. It certainly  
10 will have an impact, but it will be a positive one.  
11 Being a bay man and a Coast Guard -- Coast Guardsman  
12 at one point in my life, I know how much the sea life  
13 likes to be around structures, and they create a  
14 feeding point from the seaweed, barnacles and other  
15 sea life that attaches itself to these kinds of  
16 structures. So, it actually is beneficial, and  
17 someone would have to show me some real information to  
18 change my mind on that.

19 There seems to be some concern about  
20 navigation. Again, from my Coast Guard experience, if  
21 you can't miss this one, you probably shouldn't be in  
22 a boat. So, I'm not -- I'm not concerned about either  
23 of those issues. And I'm -- I'd like to see this  
24 process go forward. I'd like to see all of the  
25 information that can be developed prior to it being

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1 built. And I look forward to seeing what the final  
2 results are. But I think I'm going to be on the side  
3 of this thing being built all along. But at the  
4 moment, that's where I am. Thank you.

5 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
6 Walter Arnold, from the Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc  
7 Committee.

8 MR. ARNOLD: My name is Walter Arnold.  
9 I'm one of the directors to Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc  
10 Committee. I'd like to thank you, MMS, for conducting  
11 these hearings. I wish we were really a part of them.  
12 We don't agree with your decision.

13 Now, what I really want to talk about is  
14 cost benefit. What's going to happen with this  
15 process and then, any process further that looks at  
16 issues. I see those pictures of our coast. This  
17 gentleman describes the coast beautifully. Population  
18 centered around the coast. The real estate which  
19 we've tried to discuss in our local problem, and we're  
20 told that you're nimby if you discuss the height of  
21 these things and the view of these things, which in  
22 real estate, ladies and gentlemen, view is big. It's  
23 a very, very big factor.

24 In real estate, Manhattan Beach,  
25 California, if the person is concerned about his two

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1 million dollar property. Like a couple in England  
2 that lost 20 percent in a court of law. What's the  
3 impact? These people are putting up LLC corps. It's  
4 not Florida Power & Light you're dealing with. You're  
5 dealing with a limited liability corporation. This  
6 whole system is -- really has to be reviewed.

7 In our case, we have a public beach, Save  
8 Jones Beach. You have ten million visitors a year.  
9 They don't come here to see windmills. They come --  
10 We're having a naval air show this weekend. Probably,  
11 I don't know, a hundred thousand people, they don't  
12 want to see electric factory in our waters. What  
13 impact on the two coasts, I would like to know, from  
14 all the way up and down California, Alaska, anywhere,  
15 are people going to come to see windmills, or come to  
16 see what they've tried to just the beautiful coast  
17 that they're used to seeing? How will it impact  
18 tourism, which in our case is, I don't know how many  
19 millions of dollars on Long Island. Property value is  
20 in the billions on these coasts.

21 This is a great, great deal for the  
22 developers, only. The people who benefit from this  
23 are only one entity, the developers. Denmark, which  
24 you cite and you put all these pictures up, it looks  
25 like Steven Spielberg. Where in Denmark in 2004, the

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1 head of Enson Energy has declared, no matter how many  
2 windmills they have, I do not improve my greenhouse  
3 gases. Somebody has to look at the science and  
4 engineering of this, not some public relations company  
5 saying, Oh, these things will fuel 44,000 homes. It  
6 doesn't fuel 44,000 homes, except name plate.

7 So, it has to be done in a manner, and I  
8 don't know, we had kind of hoped that we would start  
9 to see this process here. I don't know how this will  
10 -- So far, we have the entire administrative record of  
11 what's been done by our local authority. There's no  
12 questions answered to the United States government  
13 agencies, on a whole bunch of questions. It's not the  
14 subject of this inquiry, or it requires further study.  
15 This is unacceptable, this whole thing. Unless  
16 somebody analyzes this and does this, you're going to  
17 have a tremendous problem. The cost of these things  
18 anywhere in the world are five to ten times  
19 conventional power plants. We must repower our power  
20 plants. I don't know. Thank you.

21 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
22 Michael J. D'Amico.

23 MR. D'AMICO: Thank you. My name is Mike  
24 D'Amico. I am a citizen of the United States,  
25 currently residing in Massapequa, New York. And I

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1 wish to open by thanking Mineral Management Services  
2 for undertaking this very critical and important first  
3 step regarding off-shore renewable energy, and  
4 allowing me the opportunity to speak here tonight.

5 In the spirit of full disclosure, I wish  
6 to state at the outset that I stand before you tonight  
7 wearing two hats. One is a consultant to the Save  
8 Jones Beach organization, a not-for-profit that you've  
9 heard mentioned here earlier. I also stand here  
10 tonight as a private citizen, exercising his  
11 democratic rights. And it is from this position that  
12 I speak now and wish the formal record to reflect.

13 At this stage, I neither promote nor  
14 oppose off-shore renewables. To me it is too early in  
15 the process to do so. I will be submitting more  
16 extensive formal comments in writing, with the --  
17 within the required time period. But for the sake of  
18 brevity, I will touch only on a few points here  
19 tonight.

20 It is critical to me that, we begin this  
21 undertaking by setting our standards as high as the  
22 bar will allow, using the best available science to  
23 the maximum extent that the laws of this nation will  
24 allow. Anything short of that will not suffice and  
25 will prove detrimental to us here and now, and also to

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1 future generations.

2 Two, I fully disagree with the former  
3 Secretary of Interior, Gail Norton's interpretation of  
4 Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the  
5 language that allows two proposed off-shore industrial  
6 wind plants, Cape Wind and the Long Island off-shore  
7 wind plants, to be fast tracked. I have formally  
8 protested this matter in the past and will do so again  
9 here tonight. It is putting the proverbial cart  
10 before the proverbial horse. And it takes away the  
11 level playing field that the National Environmental  
12 Policy Act affords us, and casts a shadow over this  
13 whole exercise, and tarnishes the process.

14 I also call on any elected official here  
15 in the audience tonight to please investigate this  
16 matter. I do not blame Mineral Management Services  
17 for what's happening. I do blame political appointees  
18 and those that put them there for allowing this to  
19 happen. Mineral Management Services, in my mind,  
20 you're in a tough spot.

21 Three, a full ecosystem and multi-  
22 ecosystem approach should be undertaken for this  
23 programmatic environmental impact statement, and  
24 incorporated into each individual proposal. This  
25 approach should take into consideration all direct,

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1 secondary and cumulative impacts of all recent past,  
2 present and future foreseeable actions, both within  
3 the sphere of off-shore renewable energy, as well as  
4 those that are outside of it.

5 Much of this information already exists  
6 within the Department of Commerce Noah's Division and  
7 also, the United Nations is readily available and will  
8 be incorporated into my comments when I submit them in  
9 writing.

10 Four, when it comes to our wildlife in  
11 these industrial scale proposals, I encourage you to  
12 require that the best available technology and science  
13 be applied with the least invasive means as possible.  
14 For example, we can set the bar low and allow  
15 proposals, proposal applicants to do aerial and bird  
16 surveys, lambast radar and literature searches that  
17 will give us count of avian species passing through  
18 the sweeps of rotors, or windmill generated devices.  
19 Or, we can raise the bar to its highest level and set  
20 up jack-up barge platforms equipped with radar  
21 equipment to do recordings 365 days of the year, 24  
22 hours a day, seven days a week, as has been called for  
23 by our U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

24 When the aforementioned was applied at  
25 Cape Wind, a count of 210 targets through the sweep of

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1 the rotors was estimated. When the jack-up barge  
2 platform was set up, the count jumped up to over a  
3 hundred and 27 thousand targets passing through the  
4 same area. If we set the standard so that they must  
5 use the most up-to-date methods, we will go a long way  
6 to ensuring that the wildlife we share this earth with  
7 are given full consideration before any proposal is  
8 permitted. And I for one do not want to hear of any  
9 applicants complaints that to do by using the highest  
10 standards available will cost money and cut into their  
11 profits. They're using federal lands and federal  
12 resources. It's the common property of the people of  
13 this country. And they should be required to pay so  
14 accordingly.

15 Five, I am a former central fish habitat  
16 advisor to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery and Management  
17 Council, and did that from 1996 up to 1998 for the  
18 establishment of a central fish habitat, that there be  
19 no development happening in any area that is  
20 designated a central fish habitat by the Department of  
21 Commerce. Fish are part of the make-up of the food  
22 and fiber of this nation and should be allocated the  
23 fullest protection to the maximum extent possible, and  
24 are vital to our national security. I can eat fish,  
25 but I can't eat electricity.

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1                   Finally, it is my understanding that  
2 Congress mandated you, Mineral Management Services,  
3 this charge of administering this aspect of our  
4 future, but did not give you the funds to do it  
5 properly. If that is correct, I call on every elected  
6 official and citizen here tonight in this audience, to  
7 join me in reversing that and to give this agency what  
8 it needs, so that they may do a proper job of  
9 balancing the needs of the environment against the  
10 needs of our economy, for they are both intricately  
11 linked. Thank you again for this opportunity.

12                   MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
13 Laurie Farber, from the Sierra Club Long Island Group.

14                   MS. FARBER: I'm Laurie Farber. I'm the  
15 conservation chair for the Long Island Group of the  
16 Sierra Club, and I'm going to skip some of what I have  
17 here just to keep in the time limit, if possible.

18                   We think it's very important that any  
19 permitted alternative energy production be shown  
20 explicitly to displace existing fossil fuel uses,  
21 otherwise, we don't bo -- we don't reduce our  
22 dependence on fossil fuels and just continue to  
23 encourage our wasteful way. And I think that's what  
24 this is all about, anyway. The Mineral Management  
25 Service should require an applicant to include

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1 rigorous reviews of the construction procedure, as  
2 well as removal at the end of its useful life.  
3 Applicants should be required to put funds up front to  
4 bond for the decommissioning and removal of any  
5 structures, and restoration to original conditions.

6 We should look at cumulative impacts. We  
7 think that's very important, because sometimes we miss  
8 quite a lot, knowing that there's going to be  
9 applications for a lot of different things in similar  
10 areas. When rigorous study or previous study shows an  
11 area is sensitive environmentally, the Mineral  
12 Management Service should not make energy production  
13 the priority over devastating or irreversible  
14 environmental impacts. It should require that the  
15 least impacting technology be chosen, when more than  
16 one application or option are presented. It's  
17 important that areas of essential fish habitat,  
18 critical bird habitat, et cetera should be identified  
19 and removed from consideration for development of any  
20 energy facility.

21 Many of the energy facilities to be  
22 proposed are anchored to the sea bottom. We need to  
23 understand how this can impact on literal drift, the  
24 on-shore/off-shore movement of sand that may be  
25 critical to maintaining barrier beaches. We should

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1 recognize the states' coastal zone management plans  
2 and look at any impact on ocean currents, local  
3 weather, or surface water movements. In cases where  
4 drilling is required, for example, for siting  
5 transmission cables, it's important to require an  
6 examination of any local aquifers or lenses of fresh  
7 water to determine if penetration will have an impact  
8 on the fresh water supply. For most of our barrier  
9 beaches, there's a lens of fresh water underneath and  
10 people who live there in facilities on those islands  
11 generally rely on that small supply of fresh water for  
12 living.

13 It's important that we study the avian  
14 activity along our shores. Where there's a project  
15 proposed in the general vicinity of a major migratory  
16 fly way, such as the east coast, then, Mineral  
17 Management Service should require multi-year, 24/7  
18 radar studies done at the project site and height to  
19 thoroughly examine the impact. Many of our neo-  
20 tropical migrants fly at night in large numbers, and  
21 the only way to pick them up is on the site at the  
22 proper height, to find out what's really going on.  
23 And I can tell you from first-hand experience, that  
24 I've banded birds at Fire Island for 20 years. Bird  
25 migration is not the same from year to year, or from

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1 week to week. There were weeks when I could barely  
2 manage to keep one or two miss nets open, and days  
3 when I would spend most of the day photographing  
4 flowers and insects. And I can assure you that the  
5 data that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has from  
6 the 20 years that I spent there is quite incomplete,  
7 because we all had other jobs. We were there as  
8 volunteers. So, it's important to realize that, a lot  
9 of days, there were no data.

10 The lighting situation is very critical  
11 and we need to also look at what kinds of lighting.  
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can recommend that. I  
13 think we also need to look at the pelagic birds. We  
14 have quite a few oceanic birds off our coast, as well  
15 as birds like terns that fish off our coast. And we  
16 need to examine whether structures anchored to the sea  
17 bottom are going to impact on their feeding behavior,  
18 diving behavior and predatory impact. I just wanted  
19 to mention, also, Monarch butterflies migrate.

20 And in short, it's important, I think,  
21 that if the EIS shows a project has great  
22 environmental impact that the permits should be  
23 denied. Thank you.

24 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
25 Neal Lewis, from the Neighborhood Network.

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1                   MR. LEWIS: Good afternoon. Neal Lewis,  
2 executive director of Neighborhood Network. I'd like  
3 to begin with the question, multiple use management.  
4 I think that the EIS that you're working on should  
5 look at the question of whether wind energy and wave  
6 energy projects could be co-located at similar sites,  
7 whether there's advantages to that, either as was  
8 shown in your PowerPoint of them being in the same  
9 structures, or just being near one another. I also  
10 would like to ask the question to be looked at, that  
11 I've been told wouldn't work, but I, nonetheless,  
12 would like your expertise to look at the question of  
13 whether solar PV could be added to other renewable  
14 technologies to help compensate for, let's say,  
15 charging batteries to run lights and things of that  
16 nature. So, could PV be added to a wind turbine, for  
17 example, for that kind of use?

18                   I think in terms of alternative use, we  
19 should look at having a policy that says permissive as  
20 possible towards allowing educational uses.  
21 Universities should be able to come to these  
22 structures, to be able to studies related to the  
23 structures, themselves, or to do studies related to  
24 the marine environment, perhaps, working off of the  
25 structures. I think recreational and boating should

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1 also have as permissive as reasonably appropriate. I  
2 think there's too much of a tendency towards  
3 attempting to say, let's just prohibit everything.  
4 Anybody that's been a boater like myself, knows that  
5 people operating boats are accustomed to coming close  
6 to structures and can do so in safe manners. And so,  
7 we shouldn't operate on the assumption that we need to  
8 cordon off these areas, but instead, should allow such  
9 uses.

10 In regards to boats, one of the goals here  
11 is to promote alternatives to our reliance on oil and  
12 natural gas. I think we should look at a policy that  
13 speaks to a question of the efficiency of the boats  
14 that are used to maintain these structures. We all  
15 know, anybody that's owned a boat, how much oil and  
16 petrol in general that they use to run the boats.  
17 There is a lot of technologies for props and motors  
18 and such that are much more efficient, and yet, they  
19 don't seem to be making their way into common use. I  
20 think it's appropriate, since the purpose behind these  
21 structures is to promote alternatives to oil. We  
22 should be talking about making the boats as efficient  
23 as possible, and combining that with the overall  
24 projects.

25 I think the question of locating things

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1       like wind turbines in deeper waters should be looked  
2       at in your analysis, within reason, I assume, but  
3       nonetheless, saying 60 or 70 feet is the limit, is  
4       something I'd like to hear that analyzed more  
5       scientifically.

6               The question about the European  
7       experience. I think it would be very helpful if your  
8       scientists and experts were perhaps able to give us  
9       some information and set the record straight. There's  
10      a lot of misinformation about all the turbines falling  
11      down in Europe. And it would be helpful if, perhaps,  
12      you could set the record straight on that.

13             In terms of homeland security, I think  
14      there's an interesting possibility to make use of  
15      these structures to include video or other electronic  
16      equipment that may help to keep an eye on shipping  
17      lanes. And I think that that possibility should be  
18      explored, as an additional benefit.

19             I think in terms of multiple companies,  
20      private, public, there should be some discussion of  
21      whether a private company gets the same status as a  
22      company that's worked through a public process, or a  
23      public company such as the case is in our proposal.

24             And lastly, I think Neighborhood Network  
25      from day one and our position on this issue has always

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1 made it clear that, we need to have scientifically  
2 rigorous EIS's done for this particular project, and  
3 the same thing should apply in your analysis in terms  
4 of what you say for all the other projects that would  
5 come forward in the near future. Thank you.

6 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker, Bob  
7 Link from Winergy Power LLC.

8 MR. LINK: I'm sorry, I have my back to  
9 you, but I'm here to talk to these people. I want to  
10 thank you so much for coming to my home town of Long  
11 Island. I've got a few points I'd like to make.

12 Energy is fundamental to our society. It  
13 powers our homes, our hospitals, our cars and the TV,  
14 where I can watch my Met games, the important things  
15 in my life.

16 The scope should take into consideration  
17 a fair and balanced comparison to generation that  
18 exists now, such as, the Brayton Point Power Plant,  
19 using a billion gallons of water a day for cooling.  
20 As compared to wind turbines, using no amount of  
21 water. When that comes into place and the fair and  
22 balanced analysis is done and is laid out in the  
23 scope, it will make for a better document.

24 Number two, the European experience has  
25 shown, because all of those sites in Europe are test

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1 or demonstration projects, pilot projects, per se.  
2 They've all been pilot projects. They've been pilot  
3 projects since they were started. Nothing has been  
4 set up as a commercial project yet, and will not be  
5 until Horns Rev adds another 80 turbines and Nystad,  
6 adds another 72, then, they will analyze it and go  
7 from there. They did one year of good baseline work,  
8 and they're doing constant monitoring. I think that  
9 would be appropriate within the scope.

10 Now, this is Bob Link personal, not Bob  
11 Link working for Winergy Power. I think if you ask  
12 Cape Wind or LIPA if they were being fast tracked, I  
13 think they would say no. They've expended, between  
14 the two of them, in excess of 30 million dollars over  
15 a period of five years. That's not fast tracking.  
16 And as the gentleman said before, electricity and  
17 fish. The world is losing 28 million metric tons of  
18 fish. I've made my living off the coastline. They  
19 lose 28 million metric tons of fish every year. I  
20 don't know if anyone knows what that is, but 10,461  
21 pounds of fish every minute of every day. I think  
22 fish should be saved.

23 I also think that endangered species  
24 should be addressed appropriately for one year. I  
25 sometimes consider myself an endangered species. I'm

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1 bigger than most seals. And I swim at Jones Beach.

2 Last but not least, I think electricity is  
3 important. It's important if I'm going to eat fish,  
4 because it helps me pack it. It helps me freeze it.  
5 And it helps me cook it. Have a great day. Thank you  
6 very much.

7 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker, Tom  
8 Vanderberg from the Save Jones Beach Committee.

9 MR. VANDERBERG: Thank you. My name is  
10 Tom Vanderberg, and I'm a resident of Amityville, Long  
11 Island and a member of the Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc  
12 Committee.

13 While the committee, like most Americans,  
14 are in favor of developing renewable energy, we are  
15 adamant that the hard questions be asked and answered,  
16 especially before places such as public parks are  
17 subject to industrialization. We applaud the Mineral  
18 Management Service for proceeding with this  
19 programmatic EIS and to establish comprehensive  
20 framework to address such questions.

21 I was going to speak about the fast track  
22 issue, but in three minutes, I'm going to have to skip  
23 that just to say, there's no reason for it. There's  
24 no rationale for it. There's no emergency here that  
25 needs to be addressed. And I do fear that the fast

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1 track issue is just going to generate litigation,  
2 that's going to slow everything down and be against  
3 everybody's interest, no matter where you are on the  
4 issue.

5 Moving on, I want to talk about the factor  
6 of aesthetics in terms of the scoping hearings.  
7 Congress with the passing of the National  
8 Environmental Policy Act identified critical areas of  
9 concern when reviewing such projects as these,  
10 specifically, including the preservation of  
11 aesthetically and culturally important aspects of our  
12 national heritage. And so, I really probably  
13 shouldn't even have to say this has to be part of our  
14 scoping. Unfortunately, at least around here, anyway,  
15 proponents -- proponents of such projects like wind  
16 farms have worked hard to do with the word,  
17 aesthetics, what conservatives have done to the word,  
18 liberal. Turning it into something shameful, out of  
19 step, something to be given short shrift. They make  
20 it sound like some namby-pamby concept, not worthy of  
21 consideration. Or, they make it sound like it's  
22 purely a nimby issue. That's not the way Congress saw  
23 it, and I hope that's not the way that MMS will treat  
24 it.

25 In particular, when you're developing the

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1 programmatic EIS standards, I hope that MMS considers  
2 that the value importance of the aesthetic impact is  
3 especially important where public lands and parks are  
4 involved. There must be a presumption against  
5 allowing any aesthetic impact upon municipal, state  
6 and national parks that have been set aside for public  
7 enjoyment and to be held in trust for future  
8 generations. That presumption should prevail, absent  
9 critical and compelling reasons for the forfeiture of  
10 our enjoyment and their heritage, and the exhaustion  
11 of all other options and alternatives.

12 There must be an even higher standard with  
13 regard to places listed in the National Registry of  
14 Historic Places, as is, for example, Jones Beach on  
15 the Ocean Parkway that runs between Jones Beach and  
16 Robert Moses State Park. Such historically and  
17 culturally significant places must be protected  
18 against adverse effects as a matter of law. And for  
19 ocean front parklands, the view shed and the  
20 aesthetics, it's really the whole point. The beaches  
21 are staged in the sea as a performance. Industrialize  
22 that view shed and the essential character of these  
23 parks is altered, blighted and ruined.

24 Obviously, the closer to shore project is  
25 allowed to be sited, the greater the impact. Where

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1 public lands are affected, the costs of moving the  
2 project further out to a benign area and any resulting  
3 consequences to the profit margin or convenience of  
4 the developers should not be allowed to overcome the  
5 mandate to preserve and protect what's in the public  
6 trust.

7 Places like these deserve are, in fact,  
8 required by law, to be preserved in their natural and  
9 historical significant state and should be, per se,  
10 off limits to energy companies who choose such sites,  
11 looking for maximum visibility and exposure in order  
12 to be front line for subsidies and tax breaks.  
13 Whether it's Jones Beach, Arcadia National Park,  
14 Nantucket Sound, Cape Hatteras or Key West, the  
15 programmatic EIS should create a presumption against  
16 they being chosen as appropriate sites, should mandate  
17 the highest standards possible, to prevent adverse  
18 impacts and that alternate benign sites be exhaustibly  
19 examined and required. Thank you for listening.

20 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
21 Nancy Solomon from the Long Island Traditions.

22 MS. SOLOMON: Good evening. There are a  
23 number of procedural considerations that apply to the  
24 other off-shore wind parks that are being considered  
25 under the programmatic EIS, and I'm going to address

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1       those first. But I also want to mention that we do  
2       hope that there will be a second consideration over  
3       the exemptions granted to the two projects here on  
4       Long Island and the Cape Wind project. I understand  
5       that it is federal policy to grandfather projects in.  
6       However, both of these projects are at the initial  
7       review stages and therefore, we feel very strongly  
8       that there should be the same review process applying  
9       to all of the off-shore wind projects, regardless of  
10      when the review process began under a different  
11      agency.

12               The first impact that I feel having  
13      documented fishermen here on Long Island over the last  
14      20 years, is that there are going to be a systemwide  
15      impact to the fishers in other coastal areas. I  
16      strongly encourage you to consult with the National  
17      Marine Fishery Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
18      Service in developing the programmatic requirements  
19      for the impacts to that resource, both from a social  
20      impact analysis, as well as from a marine analysis.

21               There needs to be in this review process  
22      thorough ethnographic studies, including on-site views  
23      with local fishers and the impact in the proposed  
24      areas, as well as benthic analysis of how it will  
25      affect -- as some of my colleagues mentioned before,

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1 as well as the potential impacts it can have to the  
2 marine wildlife, as well as to the avian wildlife. To  
3 date, we know that there are serious gaps in this  
4 information, both under the Magnuson Act, as well as  
5 other regulatory review process for these natural  
6 resources.

7 The second question concerns the cultural  
8 impacts to these off-shore projects, and we encourage  
9 you to, again, look at some of the National Park  
10 Service guidelines under the Section 106 review  
11 process, and how that will all affect the occupational  
12 culture of the fishers, as well as other related  
13 industries that depend on the ocean and the marine  
14 environment for their livelihoods.

15 We understand that there are probably  
16 other national register shipwrecks in some of the  
17 proposed areas, and there needs to be an analysis of  
18 siting issues as to how they would affect those  
19 resources, including, again, the recreational  
20 industries that have come to depend on visiting those  
21 shipwrecks.

22 Although I'm not totally familiar, I  
23 understand that there are guidelines for understanding  
24 impacts to landscape and scenic resources that should  
25 be undertaken for these reviews. There's been an

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1 active discussion recently in the cultural resource  
2 management community on how to identify those  
3 resources.

4 Lastly, I would ask that there be a  
5 serious discussion of the mitigation measures that  
6 should be analyzed in terms of the impacts that will  
7 inevitably become to be the affected stakeholders,  
8 both on an economic, as well as a educational level.  
9 Thank you.

10 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is  
11 Dennis Quaranta from Winergy Power.

12 MR. QUARANTA: My name's Dennis Quaranta.  
13 I'm president of Winergy Power. We are all here to  
14 assist in any way we can to facilitate the process of  
15 setting up your scope. One thing we think should be  
16 considered that will affect all developers of off-  
17 shore renewable energy conversion systems is that, MMS  
18 as the lead federal agency under the Energy Policy Act  
19 of 2005, Section 388, should engage at the earliest  
20 possible moment, the state agencies and regulatory  
21 bodies that manage the state coastal zones.

22 In New York, for example, there's  
23 something that's called an Article 7, that applies to  
24 the permitting of transmission cables. New Jersey has  
25 a similar regulation, as all other coastal states. In

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1 New York, a developer is required to obtain a  
2 certificate of compatibility to bring their cables  
3 ashore. In New Jersey, they are required to get a  
4 certificate of coastal zone consistency. Each coastal  
5 state has their own form of coastal consistency  
6 requirements.

7 We believe that it is imperative that  
8 these issues are addressed in the beginning of the  
9 scoping process and that all relevant state and local  
10 agencies are included from the onset of the scoping  
11 for any project that is proposed. We further believe  
12 that this inclusionary style of deliberation in  
13 keeping with the letter and spirit of the NECRA  
14 permitting process. Thank you.

15 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
16 Richard Schary.

17 MR. SCHARY: Thank you. About two, three  
18 years ago when I first heard of the Long Island off-  
19 shore wind factory project, I was told that they were  
20 talking about 30 to 40,000 windmills all up and down  
21 the east coast, and I said that's not possible. And  
22 I later found out, they were all supposed to be off  
23 public beaches to lessen the opposition. And  
24 basically, what I'm hearing tonight, it might be  
25 possible, you could have 30 to 40,000 windmills,

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1 whether you're in favor of them or not.

2 It seems to be that, this is where this  
3 committee -- this group is going, this particular EIS.  
4 You kind of gave short shrift to the other technology  
5 when you gave your little presentation, because, quite  
6 frankly, I think this is steered towards one goal, and  
7 it's definitely not something that I thought I'd hear  
8 tonight. I didn't know what to expect tonight.

9 The other technologies are not there yet,  
10 so this is basically about wind power. And the fact  
11 that Texas has a 10.3 boundary for their state limit  
12 in the off-shore area, maybe, we should try to get  
13 that in New York, so we'd have more control, cause  
14 these power cables do have to come ashore at some  
15 time.

16 Now, why not have an EIS for all off-shore  
17 projects? How about broad water? How about floating  
18 barges? Why not have an EIS for that? Why not have  
19 an EIS for future oil and gas terminals or projects in  
20 the ocean? Why not just this? This seems to be  
21 steered toward one goal, again. We have directional  
22 drilling and it's possible, that if gas is found 30,  
23 40 miles off the coast, you could have oil wells on  
24 land and drill outward. I think this should include  
25 all off-shore projects, not just wind factories.

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1           And the fact that LIPA has got a special  
2           exemption, Cape Wind and LIPA have this special  
3           exemption, is very troubling. The fact it was done  
4           without competitive bidding invites a lawsuit. I'm  
5           sure it's going to be in the courts now. When you  
6           have a former U.S. senator being paid large amounts of  
7           money to lobby, to get something exempted, lobbying  
8           the Congress, suspicions are certainly roused. And  
9           now, off-shore wind factories get federal and state  
10          tax credits. They get accelerated depreciation. They  
11          get pollution credits. And all these credits come out  
12          of my pocket. The taxpayers pay the big businesses.  
13          They pay the corporate welfare. The taxpayers pay  
14          FPL. They pay Goldman Sachs, who now is in the  
15          windmill business. They pay GE. And all these things  
16          are done by large corporations, and the only color  
17          money that they seem to respect -- The only thing they  
18          have about the environment that's green, is the color  
19          of money.

20                 And the fact that I'm standing here before  
21                 the Interior Department now, this is the same Interior  
22                 Department that is permitting thousands of gas wells  
23                 out west, and the same Interior Department that is  
24                 accelerating logging in our national forests and  
25                 accelerating logging roads, trying to get rid of the

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1       Endangered Species Act, now, they're three miles off  
2       my beach. I am very suspicious. And I'm going to  
3       say, again, follow the money, cause that's what this  
4       is about. It's about the money. Thank you.

5               MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
6       Philip Healey from Biltmore Shores Civic Association.

7               MR. HEALEY: May I ask you some questions?  
8       Is that possible?

9               MR. GASPER: The purpose of this --

10              MR. HEALEY: Before I file my statement,  
11       I just didn't understand a couple of things that you  
12       had in your presentation. Ask you a question that you  
13       feel appropriate and you can answer.

14              When you mentioned your draft EIS that's  
15       going to come out in February of 2007 -- You mentioned  
16       your draft EIS is going to come out in 2007. And  
17       there's a rule, it comes out simultaneously? What is  
18       that rule? What does it do? I don't understand the  
19       process of what that is.

20              MS. ORR: We're developing a regulatory  
21       regime that will govern how we permit these projects.  
22       And that will come out at about the same time. It's  
23       describing the regulatory regime. The programmatic  
24       EIS looks at the environmental and socioeconomic  
25       impacts associated with these sorts of projects. The

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1 two things will come out at about the same time.

2 MR. HEALEY: Okay. So, will your EIS be  
3 a separate EIS that's going on, than what a private  
4 company is proposing to do now, or a project that's  
5 going on now? So, it's two different entities and  
6 they don't overlap, or -- or work together; is that  
7 correct?

8 (No audible Response)

9 MR. HEALEY: Okay. All right. I'm ready  
10 when you are. Go.

11 Again, my name is Philip Healey with the  
12 Biltmore Shores Civic Association in Massapequa. We  
13 are -- our position down in the community there, that  
14 no project should be fast tracked. We hope that all  
15 projects will follow after your guidelines are set up,  
16 like any other project will be counted anywhere. We  
17 also hope that -- We don't believe that a date of 2007  
18 to do a social economic impact and how it's going to  
19 affect our tourism, our local activities, our bay  
20 activities, our recreational activities is enough  
21 time. There's no way you can understand how the whole  
22 system works here in that amount of time.

23 We also hope that in your EIS or your  
24 programs, guidelines you're going to set up, that you  
25 understand -- look at what it takes to maintain these

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1 structures, so they're working all the time. Is the  
2 company able to facilitate -- Are they able and  
3 willing to facilitate the proper maintenance of them,  
4 and what does it protect us, so that these things  
5 aren't just sitting there, doing nothing, collecting  
6 subsidies.

7 On the subject of subsidies, we'd like you  
8 also to consider if the subsidies were eliminated,  
9 would these projects be viable? And if these -- That  
10 it ties into the economic viability of the project.

11 Again, we're under a misunderstanding. We  
12 had hoped that your guidelines and your EIS would be  
13 -- would set the standard for the off-shore project  
14 being proposed now, but a misunderstanding here that,  
15 the two don't -- there's no crossover on those. So,  
16 that's unfortunate. We had hoped that you'd hold the  
17 position that no project would go forward without your  
18 guidelines, first. Thank you.

19 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
20 Sashe Annete, U.S. Green Building Council.

21 MS. ANNETE: I'd like to thank all of you  
22 for being here and for the quality and level of  
23 comments and concerns in the room. I would like to  
24 thank Minerals Management for this series of public  
25 meetings. This is my third. I was able to attend the

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1 meeting in Washington and the meeting last night in  
2 New Jersey.

3 My name is Sashe Annete. I am an  
4 environmental media strategist. I'm a member of the  
5 U.S. Green Building Council, New Jersey Chapter. And  
6 I work directly with the Board of Public Utilities.  
7 I have a production company that is currently focusing  
8 on producing events and concert events, specifically,  
9 to raise awareness and funds for renewable energy  
10 organizations.

11 As a resident of Monmouth County, New  
12 Jersey, and one who actually grew up here on Long  
13 Island I have obvious interest in how this policy  
14 developments and the potential future of off-shore  
15 wind farms, not only in New Jersey or Long Island but  
16 throughout the entire northeast and ultimately, the  
17 world. We live in a densely populated coastal area  
18 that is particularly vulnerable to the devastating  
19 effects of global warming. The northeast corridor is  
20 probably one of the greatest energy drains on our  
21 national grid. We are vulnerable to rising energy  
22 prices. We re vulnerable to shortages and blackouts.  
23 And we are vulnerable to terrorism.

24 Wind technology has been used on this  
25 planet since ancient times. There is no reason that

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1 we should not fully take advantage of the technology  
2 that is now available to us, to implement this  
3 natural, clean renewable source of energy. If you  
4 look at the widespread use of renewable energy  
5 projects, particularly in Europe, it is nothing less  
6 than shameful that we as a nation and as a global  
7 leader are so far behind the rest of the world on this  
8 issue. Europe, for example, has obviously overcome  
9 the obstacles of costs, aesthetic and environmental  
10 impact and technology challenges. We must follow  
11 their lead. And there is no reason why we cannot  
12 leapfrog, so to speak, off of their experience, and  
13 the obstacles that they have overcome in this process.

14 An interesting question is, why are they  
15 so far ahead of us? I suggest, it is a matter of  
16 consciousness. The consciousness of a people affect  
17 the consciousness of a government and vice versa.  
18 They have faced higher energy costs and pollution and  
19 environmental concerns for many years. We seem to  
20 have forgotten the energy crises of the 1970's, and we  
21 are facing much more devastating consequences if we do  
22 not make some serious, long-term changes, and quickly.

23 I well understand the need to develop the  
24 EIS and the valid concerns that are raised, that  
25 deserve to be addressed, but not over 18 months. So,

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1 I challenge all involved parties on the research,  
2 technology and policy levels to get onto the same page  
3 and develop a new paradigm for pushing this policy  
4 through and be creative about, you know, possible,  
5 simultaneous, you know, don't wait to start phase two  
6 because you haven't gotten all the information yet  
7 from phase one. There is viable information out there  
8 from our brothers and sisters in Europe.

9 I'm actually representing two other  
10 colleagues, so I would ask you for just one more  
11 minute, if I might. Thank you.

12 So, on the issue, I well understand the  
13 Jones Beach concerns. I grew up on Jones Beach. You  
14 will not have a beach if the continued effects of  
15 global warming continue to devastate our coastlines.  
16 On the tourism issue, I stood in San Bernadino Valley,  
17 in the desert, in California. The wind farm there is  
18 stunning. And granted, Europe has a different  
19 aesthetic sensibility, perhaps, than some Americans.  
20 But I don't think anyone is sitting in a café  
21 waterside in Denmark complaining about the view. I  
22 don't think that tourists on this coast will say, Oh,  
23 honey, look at that disgusting turbine. I think I'm  
24 going to be sick.

25 I happen to work very closely with the

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1 mayor of Belmar, New Jersey, which is one of our  
2 biggest tourism towns. They have a beautiful  
3 boardwalk and we're actually producing a concert there  
4 for him this summer. And he has no problem with the  
5 tourism issue.

6 So, I'll cut to the end. The real  
7 challenges here are issues like the interconnect and  
8 the deep water foundations and costs. Let us not  
9 waste time on issues that have already been  
10 effectively addressed by our neighbors, who have  
11 implemented this technology. Where we stand now is  
12 like having a high contrast MRI machine --

13 MR. GASPER: If you could draw that to a  
14 close, or defer your comments until after --

15 MS. ANNETE: Okay.

16 MR. GASPER: -- the rest of the speakers.

17 MS. ANNETE: I would be happy to do that.  
18 I don't think we have a choice but to fast track this.  
19 If you look at Darfur and Nigeria and Iraq and the  
20 merging threat of Iran, we cannot compare those  
21 threats to the issues that we're facing here with off-  
22 shore wind.

23 I think I made it clear that I was  
24 actually representing two other colleagues, so I did  
25 ask for another minute. But I will -- I will defer.

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1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
3 Joseph Kracovich, president, Old Lindenmerie Civic  
4 Association. I apologize for butchering all of that.

5 MR. KRACOVICH: I object to a two hour  
6 audience prep and my three-minute time limit.

7 MR. GASPER: Could you -- Could you state  
8 your name?

9 MR. KRACOVICH: My name is Joseph  
10 Kracovich.

11 MR. GASPER: Thank you.

12 MR. KRACOVICH: Cape Cod and the Jones  
13 Beach project should not avoid the rules and  
14 regulations that the scoping sessions are designed to  
15 address. Please avoid any historic sites, public  
16 beaches, recreational areas and pseudo-science.

17 How can you do a national -- a nationwide  
18 EIS in six months? Find out if the technologies and  
19 projects that you're dealing with actually work? Do  
20 a cost benefit analysis on each project and all of the  
21 expected projects, together?

22 Everyone's looking for the same thing, no  
23 risk, deduction tax credits, subsidies. There's 5,000  
24 megawatts of wind power on application with the New  
25 York ISO now. What are you going to do and how is

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1 this going to affect the nation as a whole?

2 Please avoid the unqualified award of any  
3 production tax credit. The public should not be  
4 forced to subsidize institutionalized fraud, corporate  
5 welfare, or non-viable supply site electric  
6 generation.

7 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
8 Daniel Zaweski, Long Island Power Authority.

9 MR. ZAWESKI: Hi. Good evening. My name  
10 is Dan Zaweski. I'm with the Long Island Power  
11 Authority. I appreciate the opportunity to present  
12 some of our thoughts on your programmatic EIS tonight.  
13 I'm trying to keep it relatively brief here to my  
14 three minutes.

15 As you are aware, the Long Island Power  
16 Authority in conjunction with Florida Power & Light,  
17 had promulgated the Long Island Off-Shore Wind Project  
18 and we're working on that now. Our comments here are  
19 based more on the programmatic EIS that you're seeking  
20 comment on.

21 First, I think we want to state that is it  
22 our understanding that, your programmatic EIS in no  
23 way, shape or form is going to diminish or dilute the  
24 requirements of each project to go through the  
25 National Environmental Policy Act and to be subject to

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1       those rigorous studies.

2               From our perspective as a utility serving  
3       load, we're struggling right now with the need to  
4       diversify our resources, remove some of the continued  
5       fuel pressure that is causing us to continue to  
6       increase the cost to our customers on a kilowatt hour  
7       basis. And also, to start moving towards some form of  
8       energy security.

9               With regards to thoughts on the  
10       programmatic EIS, a number of concerns and thoughts  
11       that we have start, really, with the body of knowledge  
12       that's out there already, and we would -- we would  
13       suggest that those resources that are available, that  
14       have developed from the past 16 years of studies that  
15       have been conducted on the various off-shore  
16       installations that have taken place in Europe, be  
17       brought into your programmatic EIS to the extent that  
18       they can be.

19              Number two, in looking at future  
20       requirements and recognizing the costs of off-shore  
21       studies, compared to those on-shore, that, where  
22       possible, comparative results that have been developed  
23       for on-shore purposes be utilized.

24              Number three, we'd ask that in your  
25       development of the EIS -- I don't know where this

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1 echo's coming from. I apologize for that. In your  
2 development of the EIS requirements, you look at the  
3 current requirements that are in place for siting  
4 existing fossil based generation resources, which have  
5 been developed now to a point where all necessary  
6 issues are -- are studied and evaluated, but that do  
7 not put an undue burden or an over burden to go beyond  
8 that.

9 Last but not least, we think it's  
10 important as part of your environmental impact studies  
11 to keep in mind that, any form of generation that's  
12 going to result in electric generation, that's going  
13 to have a need to interconnect to an on-shore grid,  
14 that some consideration be given to the ability for  
15 those projects to interconnect to the grid.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to address  
17 you this night. And thank you for moving forward with  
18 this.

19 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is  
20 Ian Kelly, Winergy Power.

21 MR. KELLY: Good evening. I'd like to  
22 thank you for coming all the way to Long Island to  
23 take public comment. Looking around the room, it  
24 seems that I am actually the youngest face here. My  
25 generation, I believe, has the greatest vested

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1 interest in what the rules and regulations that you'll  
2 be setting up tonight.

3 I ask that then you are forming the  
4 regulations and scope -- entering the scoping process  
5 that you look at environmental impacts, that you also  
6 compare them to the present energy loads, mainly coal,  
7 that produces such greenhouse gases, that do more than  
8 just pollute the air, they also endanger our streams,  
9 hurt the fish and kill the birds.

10 Also, because I'm going to be around for  
11 a while, I'd like to try to see this go a little  
12 faster than ten years out, because many people are  
13 looking to have as much scientific data as possible.  
14 We don't know if the birds are going to run into a  
15 turbine, a turbine out there. And in that course, I'd  
16 like to see -- I'd hope that we could get a process in  
17 which, as NREL has stated, test sites on the same size  
18 and same scale that we have over in Europe. Thank  
19 you. And have a good evening.

20 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is  
21 Jim Brown.

22 MR. BROWN: Hi. My name is Jim Brown. I  
23 live in Long Beach, and speaking primarily as a  
24 private citizen, but the South Shore Audubon Society  
25 asked me to come down tonight, just to check it out

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1 and see what was happening here.

2 Generally, personally, I support a wind  
3 power and I think there's a real need to begin some  
4 kind of pilot program. But several concerns should be  
5 addressed in the environmental impact statement, and  
6 a lot of these have been touched upon tonight and  
7 that's the importance of the bird survey, and that the  
8 science should be very good on that, to see, you know,  
9 the impact on birds.

10 The question -- I have some questions  
11 regarding the aesthetics, also, and wondering in an  
12 environmental impact statement, how you would actually  
13 measure that. Someone might, looking off shore, enjoy  
14 seeing windmills. We've seen that expressed tonight.  
15 Other people apparently find them abhorrent. I was  
16 just wondering, in the environmental impact statement,  
17 how you would measure the impact on something that's  
18 somewhat or very subjective, and I hope that would be  
19 spelled out. I don't know if you have any answers  
20 tonight on that. But just wondering how that would be  
21 measured.

22 Finally, the scoping should be, you know,  
23 as wide as possible, including as many things as were  
24 mentioned here tonight by numerous people. And as I  
25 say, the South Shore Audubon Society and other local

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1        audubon societies are waiting to see the science,  
2        because, you know, primarily these concerns of  
3        aesthetics, use of public space, and of course, the  
4        impact on birds. And I would hope that all of these  
5        would be addressed. Thank you.

6                MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
7        Adrienne Esposito, Citizens Campaign for the  
8        Environment.

9                MS. ESPOSITO: Good evening. I just have  
10       -- Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens  
11       Campaign for the Environment. I just have one more  
12       item to add to our list that we would like the scope  
13       to look at, that my colleague couldn't add because of  
14       the time constraints. And that is that, we said it  
15       earlier, we support a site-specific environmental  
16       review. However, in addition, we also believe that in  
17       this programmatic EIS, it is certainly necessary and  
18       it would be meaningful to also include a discussion  
19       about the collective impact that renewable energy  
20       development on the continental shelf can and will have  
21       to the reduction of fossil fuel emissions, and how  
22       that reduction of fossil fuel emissions impacts our  
23       ocean waterways.

24               The greatest threat -- One of the greatest  
25       threats right now to our ocean waters is the burning

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1 of fossil fuels. So, how will the reduction of those  
2 emissions impact such serious issues as the rising  
3 acidity level in our ocean, acid rain, mercury in  
4 fish, bleaching of coral reefs, sea level rise, the  
5 degradation of wetlands due to sea level rise, and the  
6 impact to marine species that cannot adapt quick  
7 enough to the climate change that the ocean is  
8 experiencing?

9 So, as we weigh the benefits and the costs  
10 to development of renewable resources on the  
11 continental shelf, we need to add to that formula,  
12 what is the benefit of reduction of fossil fuel  
13 emissions to the ocean environment and to the public  
14 health, as well. And we're asking for that discussion  
15 to be included in the programmatic EIS. Thank you.

16 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,  
17 Harold Read.

18 MR. READ: Thank you for the opportunity  
19 to speak with you this evening. One of the concerns  
20 I have, as someone who thinks that LIPA's off-shore  
21 project is ill-advised and is terribly the wrong thing  
22 for Long Island is the publicizing of meetings such as  
23 this. A number of meetings had been held with -- by  
24 LIPA, Long Island Power Authority, in which very many  
25 people simply -- of which many people were unaware.

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1 And I hope, as you hold your meetings, you do -- you  
2 do hold them in a way that is such that they're made  
3 known.

4 Now, I heard about this meeting a week  
5 ago, someone sent me an email. And then, today, I  
6 read -- And I fully intended to come here tonight and  
7 talk about the LIPA project. And yet, today, in  
8 Newsday, there's a big article about the fact that the  
9 LIPA project was some how getting a fast track  
10 treatment, would not be subject to the same rules and  
11 regulations that every other project is, and would not  
12 be discussed tonight. So, you know, here -- The very  
13 fact that I'm here talking with you is the product of  
14 -- I am the product of some confusion. So, I would  
15 hope that you would do whatever you can to give  
16 everyone the opportunity to know of the existence of  
17 these meetings when you hold them.

18 And I would just like to make one final  
19 comment on the -- on the LIPA project. I think that  
20 it's the wrong project in the wrong place. If you  
21 want to start out experimenting with off-shore wind  
22 power, don't do it at an actual historic site. You  
23 wouldn't certainly want to have a bunch of windmills  
24 installed, let's say, in front of the Statue of  
25 Liberty, or any other magnificently precious spot.

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1 Long Island's beaches, particularly, Jones Beach, is  
2 very much dear and near to our hearts. And I think  
3 there must be somewhere in this country of ours, an  
4 area where off-shore wind power could be experimented  
5 with, without immediately hitting one of the most  
6 popular beaches in the country. Thank you.

7 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Okay. That's the  
8 end of the list of registered speakers. Is there  
9 anybody else who'd like to make a statement? Yes.  
10 Please state your name and affiliation, if you have  
11 one.

12 MR. PRATT: My name is Charlie Pratt and  
13 I'm here tonight for American Wind Power and Hydrogen.  
14 The Minerals Management Service's May 2006 technology  
15 paper that was issued in association with a EIS,  
16 listed a number of impacts and they all seem to be the  
17 adverse impacts that were going to be studied in the  
18 EIS. And I guess the general point I would like to  
19 make tonight is that, I think there really ought to be  
20 some balancing and they ought to take a hard look at  
21 what the positive benefits of the off-shore wind will  
22 be.

23 So, I'd like to say one or two things  
24 tonight about the benefits of the -- of an off-shore  
25 wind project and particularly, as they relate to

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1 hydrogen production. We all know these days that  
2 energy security and global warming and the export of  
3 our capital to other countries provide a very strong  
4 incentive for wind farm development. And it's been  
5 said earlier tonight that, Europe has recognized wind  
6 energy as a means to reduce the global warming  
7 problem.

8 In fact, it is estimated that by 2010,  
9 wind energy will meet one-third of the European  
10 union's Kyoto obligations. European -- Europe is also  
11 focusing on hydrogen production that would come from  
12 renewable wind resources. There are, in fact, over 50  
13 hydrogen fuel transit buses, either internal  
14 combustion engine buses or fuel cell buses, either in  
15 service or on order in Europe. So, off-shore wind  
16 energy can be converted into hydrogen by electrolysis.  
17 The advances in electrolysis technology have results  
18 in equipment suppliers in this country, now offering  
19 to build large size, in the megawatt size of equipment  
20 scale plants. In fact, there are about seven of these  
21 large electrolysis machines that are either on order,  
22 or under consideration.

23 So, I would suggest to the MMS that, it  
24 consider the benefits to the country and the  
25 preferences of the majority of our country's citizens

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1 to have air pollution reduced, global warming reduced  
2 and energy security enhanced through the use of off-  
3 shore wind. In fact, the transportation system here  
4 in the New York/New Jersey area adds about 1.7 million  
5 tons of pollutants to the air every year. And a  
6 switch to more off-shore wind producing hydrogen could  
7 fuel the entire mass transit system in this area.  
8 Thank you very much for your attention.

9 MR. GASPER: Is there anyone else? Yes,  
10 ma'am.

11 MS. SHARI: Good evening. My name is Lisa  
12 Shari. I wasn't going to speak tonight, because  
13 everyone here spoke a lot about the environment, about  
14 money, about Long Island and what a jewel Jones Beach  
15 is. But I do have one thing that really troubles me  
16 and that is, that every speaker that spoke tonight in  
17 favor of this project, or any other wind project, or  
18 any other off-shore project is getting paid by  
19 somebody, even the environmental groups. Thank you.

20 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Yes, sir.

21 MR. BROOKS: Hi. I'm John Brooks from the  
22 Save Jones Beach Association. I spoke earlier, was  
23 rushed and was a little overwhelmed at speaking  
24 before. A number of wind farm spokesmen here talked  
25 about maybe getting a pilot project or a test project,

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1 in thinking, that maybe Cape Wind or the Long Island  
2 off-shore project would be a test project.

3 The gentleman, Mr. Musial, talked about  
4 Horns Rev in Denmark as being a test project. I don't  
5 know if you would like to know what those people went  
6 through between the years 2002 and 2004. That project  
7 was so inefficient and broke down so many times, they  
8 had 77,000 service calls for 80 turbines in that area,  
9 and they wound up replacing every single turbine. I  
10 don't want that off Jones Beach. Thank you.

11 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Yes, sir.

12 MR. CARRA: I was the first speaker and I  
13 rushed --

14 MR. GASPER: Would you say your name,  
15 again, for the record?

16 MR. CARRA: Yes. Robert Carra. I was the  
17 first speaker and I literally ran through what I had  
18 to say. Now, I'll take a little time to say something  
19 that's totally unrelated to what I said before, which  
20 had to do with radar and some very poignant concerns.  
21 And living underneath the flight patterns, I think you  
22 should take some close scrutiny of that, and the  
23 nautical demands that are placed on two inlets. And  
24 within 17 miles is JFK. Thirty some odd miles,  
25 Calverton and Newark.

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1           We have two major inlets with shoaling.  
2       There's republic. I mean, it's right smack dab in the  
3       middle of one of the most significant traffic areas in  
4       the world. And if you don't really take a serious  
5       look at what you're doing there, we got a real severe  
6       problem. The Coast Guard and everyone is like saying,  
7       whoa, what's going on here. All right. Enough of  
8       that.

9           Nobody's, especially, the  
10      environmentalists and the pro-wind people have  
11      discussed one thing. Nobody in this whole place has  
12      said anything but consume, consume and more consume.  
13      And I know you guys might not have anything to do with  
14      consumption, but maybe, somebody might have something  
15      to do with conservation. How about reducing the  
16      demands that we want to sell more of this energy?  
17      Sell more. Consume more. Bury the earth. And what  
18      I meant about our children, our children's children  
19      not seeing the light of day.

20           You guys can talk about all you want, but  
21      the bottom line comes down to knock out your plasma  
22      screens, knock out your SUV's, knock out your Viking  
23      stoves, knock out our system. I don't know. But darn  
24      it, we better wise up, because there ain't going to be  
25      much left for our grandchildren.

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1 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Anybody else? Go  
2 ahead.

3 MR. RAACKE: Again, Gordian Raacke,  
4 Renewable energy Long Island. I just wanted to finish  
5 a couple of point I didn't get to finish before.

6 On the programmatic EIS, while we believe  
7 that a PEIS will go a long way to protect our marine  
8 environment and at the same time allow off-shore  
9 renewable energy development, we urge MMS to require  
10 a full site-specific environmental impact statement  
11 for each project going forward, at least in the early  
12 years.

13 Given that the U.S. has essentially no  
14 prior experience with off-shore renewable energy  
15 projects, RELI believe that it is paramount to ensure  
16 that each propose project undergoes a rigorous and  
17 site-specific environmental and regulatory review.  
18 And that goes for the Long Island project. And we  
19 want that to be extremely rigorous and thorough.

20 I wanted to give -- give you some specific  
21 comments on scoping issues for this PEIS. I have not  
22 heard much of that. It's been a little disappointing.  
23 I thought that some of the people that are opposed to  
24 the Long Island project would come up with specific  
25 scoping issues for the PEIS. But this is a list,

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historically, but I have 16 issues I wanted to bring up. I'll rattle through them quickly.

On the environmental side, number one, impact on migratory bird populations. Number two, impacts on endangered species. Number three, impacts on marine life and environment, including ocean bottom impacts. Number four, impact on marine mammals from potential underwater noise or vibrations during construction, during operation and during decommissioning. Number five, potential mitigation issues and measures.

These and other potentially negative environmental impacts must be weighed against positive impacts or benefits that are typically devised from renewable energy projects, including number six, pollution avoidance and resulting air and water quality and public health benefits. Number seven, greenhouse gas emission avoidance and mitigation of global warming and climate impacts. Number eight, impacts from a no-action alternative, meaning, if a project were not to be built, what would the impacts be compared to fossil fuel extraction and power generation.

On the economic impacts, number nine, impacts that could be positive or negative, that we

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1 need to look at that on tourism, on beach activities,  
2 on boating and other recreational uses. Number ten,  
3 impact on commercial and recreational fisheries.  
4 Number 11, potentially positive impacts on local,  
5 regional and national economy due to the avoidance of  
6 purchasing of imported fossil fuels. Number 12,  
7 potentially positive impacts on price stability of  
8 electric rates, something we are very concerned about  
9 here in Long Island. Number 13, potentially positive  
10 impacts on the economy due to job creation and other  
11 secondary or indirect economic benefits typically  
12 associated with renewable energy technologies.

13 Other issues such as number 14, aesthetic  
14 impacts need to be looked at, obviously, in the PEIS.  
15 And number 15, potentially positive impacts on our  
16 national security. And number 16, positive impacts on  
17 secured energy supply and diversified energy  
18 portfolio.

19 Thank you, again, for giving me the  
20 opportunity to provide these comments. This is just  
21 the beginning. I commend you for conducting this  
22 process and for allowing all of us to provide input  
23 and comments. Look forward to working with you in  
24 the future. Thank you.

25 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Yes, sir.

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1 MR. CARRIER: Just a few final comments.  
2 Rick Carrier --

3 MR. GASPER: Would you please repeat your  
4 name and affiliation.

5 MR. CARRIER: Rick Carrier, Bald Eagle  
6 Power Company, New York City. Here tonight, we have  
7 Florida Light & Power, we have LIPA, and we have --  
8 The only one missing is Jim Gordon from Cape Wind. If  
9 he was here tonight and all three of us stood together  
10 and said, why are we doing this? Why are we even  
11 going near the water, cause so many people are trying  
12 to knock us out of the water.

13 Look at the Cape Wind project, Senator  
14 Kennedy and the other people up there are forming  
15 blocks with the Coast Guard. They're trying to kill  
16 it. We've got to put a mile and a half waterways  
17 through it. If that passes up there, then, every  
18 state in the United States, the government will have  
19 control over the -- over the off-shore wind, or power,  
20 or whatever we want to do. But most people, not one  
21 person in here said why we're here.

22 Well, quite frankly, why we're here is  
23 because America's at war. I think everybody forgot  
24 that. It didn't get mentioned. Why are we at war?  
25 We're at war because of oil, O-I-L. Billions and

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1       billions of dollars of America are going over there,  
2       putting the powder in the guns and the people trying  
3       to kill us and killing us. And who in the heck is  
4       going to stop it? We, three of us right here, are  
5       standing in here trying to create an environment,  
6       where we're going to get rid of oil, because of wind  
7       power and all the projects are not using oil. And if  
8       we can put together a million, or two million, or  
9       three million megawatts of power to make electricity,  
10      to make hydrogen, or to do whatever we want, by gosh,  
11      we will get rid of that oil. And darn it, that's what  
12      we got to do.

13               We can't just go around -- I mean, you're  
14      talking about fish and everything else. One dragger  
15      working those fields out there, are killing more fish  
16      than anybody can imagine. Ripping up the bottom.  
17      Tearing it. Mud going all over the place. And  
18      they're talking about that. They're talking about the  
19      windmills hitting birds. I've seen the statistics on  
20      that. One of these big rotors going through there,  
21      darn few of them impact birds.

22               And a lot of these other issues that are  
23      always coming up about the environment, fish and other  
24      things. By gosh, the fish are out there, and the  
25      thing is, pollution in the water. We need clean air,

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1 clean land and clean water. Renewable energy is the  
2 only way we're going to get it. We got to get rid of  
3 oil. We got to get rid of oil now, not -- not two  
4 years from now. Thank you.

5 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Anybody else?

6 MR. LINK: Bob Link, permit compliance  
7 officer, Winergy Power, round two. I'll make this  
8 short. I'll make it sweet.

9 I've listened to a lot of people here  
10 tonight, including myself, and I've got something  
11 that, again, should be considered in the scope. Don't  
12 fool me with the facts, let me be emotional. The  
13 facts, people that live around traditional power  
14 plants die at 58 years old. The facts, mercury  
15 poisoning is causing approximately 27,000 children to  
16 be born every year from coal pollution. We pay for  
17 that. The facts, the amount of pollution that we're  
18 putting into the air is killing more people with  
19 respiratory diseases than drunk driving, U.S.

20 The facts, when the scope is done, a fair  
21 comparison to relay the facts. Put the facts down.  
22 Make a comparison. Have a nice day.

23 MR. GASPER: Thank you.

24 MS. ANNETE: I will be brief, and I do beg  
25 your forgiveness for overstaying my welcome

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1 previously. With all due respect, I feel that three  
2 minutes is a little bit tough to cover the breadth and  
3 scope of what is so important and the reason that we  
4 are all here with our time and our attention and our  
5 research. And I don't think that it is a place for  
6 rudeness or heckling. So --

7 MR. GASPER: I'm sorry. Could you state  
8 your name, again, just for the record?

9 MS. ANNETE: It's Sashe, again. And this  
10 -- this will happen. This must happen. We do not  
11 have a choice. And these are not my words. These are  
12 the words of scientists and policy makers and the  
13 people that are at the forefront of this entire  
14 prospect.

15 If we continue with a lead tight  
16 mentality, we're not going to have a future. We are  
17 the endangered species. I'm going to leave you with  
18 a quote from Robert Nestor Marley, who wrote a  
19 beautiful song called "Redemption Song." How long  
20 shall they kill our profits, while we stand around and  
21 look. We do not have time to stand around and look.  
22 Thank you.

23 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Yes, sir. Him  
24 and then, you. You can talk after him.

25 MR. HEALEY: Thank you, again. Philip

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1 Healey from Biltmore Shores Civic Association. It's  
2 interesting, some of the people are opposed to it, but  
3 I consider are opposed to it. I want to thank some of  
4 the environmental people for bringing up some tough  
5 issues here. You studied a lot greater, the horseshoe  
6 crabs, whatever. We're sort of on the same side in  
7 many respects.

8 I take offense to the people who are going  
9 to make a lot of money off this wind energy. They're  
10 going to take care of themselves very well. It's  
11 outrageous that you bring -- you bring in the  
12 government to help you benefit, personally, out of  
13 this. This is not what this meeting's about.

14 I want to thank you, again, also, for  
15 letting us come up again.

16 MR. GASPER: Thank you.

17 MR. HERGH: Charles Hergh. I'm a retired  
18 engineer. I must say, the renewables are not the  
19 answer. If you want to clear up all this pollution,  
20 get rid of our use of fossil fuels and take care of  
21 reduced carbon dioxide emissions tremendously, you  
22 would go to nuclear energy. This is really the  
23 answer, not these renewables. That wind farm is a  
24 piece of junk. It's not delivering a hundred and 40  
25 megawatts. That's only at peak wind speed.

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1                   So, I must warn you people right now, you  
2                   got to watch those gas hydrates in the oceans, because  
3                   the way these things are going here, they're going to  
4                   end up in our atmosphere. I can't say that renewables  
5                   is the answer. I'm sorry you people can't see nuclear  
6                   as the answer. All you have to do is look at Europe.  
7                   France, 76 percent, and they have 14 percent hydro-  
8                   electric. That means that 90 percent of their -- of  
9                   their electricity is produced without producing carbon  
10                  dioxide, or without using fossil fuels. That's the  
11                  answer, not any of this garbage that was mentioned  
12                  before.

13                 I'm not getting paid by anybody, and  
14                 that's what I'm telling you. You have to go nuclear.  
15                 I'm sorry. Okay. Thank you very much.

16                 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Anybody else have  
17                 comments on what the scope of the PEIS should be? If  
18                 not, then, we can note it's quarter of nine, and the  
19                 scoping comment period is closed.

20                 Thank you for coming.

21                 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at  
22                 8:45 p.m.)

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